

## Sports Reports 2017-2018

### Cricket

The 2017 cricket season was one of great success for the College. Every team, from U12 to the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, achieved winning seasons, and the future looks promising, with the U11 side from the Prep School also winning their county cup and qualifying for the national competition. The U13, U14 and U15 teams only lost one game each, all season, whilst the 1<sup>st</sup> XI lost only two.

	1st	2 <sup>nd</sup>	U15	U14	U13	U12
Played	13	3	8	5	7	7
Won	8	2	7	4	6	4
Drawn	3	0	0	0	0	0
Lost	2	1	1	1	1	3
Abandoned	3	2	0	3	1	2

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

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI recorded their most successful season for well over a decade. From the end of April, they remained unbeaten until the end of term, recording some fine wins along the way. Victory over local rivals, Loughborough, proved a catalyst for an outstanding cricket week, which also included wins over the Old Boys in the Grand Match and an unbeaten festival to finish the term, beating Bolton, Rydal Penrhos and Silcoates. What was exceptionally pleasing was that the wins were gained as a result of real team efforts rather than individual brilliance. That said, those deserving of mention include Jack Nightingale who continued to progress well, playing for Leicestershire County Cricket Club 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Toby Snell, Rion Yapa and George Morgan-Jones, who also contributed regularly. The final record of eight wins, three draws and only two losses will take some beating, but with almost all of the team returning, the squad have high hopes for next year.

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

The second eleven had their now traditional 'mini season' and, this year, it was to be enjoyed with the side playing three and winning two. Co-captains, Alex Keay and Charlie McLean, got the balance exactly right with everyone getting either a bat or a bowl in most of the games. Alex's promotion to the 1<sup>st</sup> XI could have cost us dear, but everyone contributed to ensure he wasn't too badly missed. We were delighted to see Nicole Spencer take the bowling honours; she bowled magnificently in all games and was ably backed up by several others, notably Oliver Foulds, Harry Heaney and Matthew Ward. We hope the younger team members enjoyed their first experience of senior cricket and we look forward to observing their progress.

#### U15

It has been a pleasure to coach the U15 team this season. The boys have worked very hard at improving their skills, built good team spirit and supported each other in training and in matches. All this led to an excellent season, with seven wins out of the eight games played. The only loss came at Mount St Mary's, where the team was significantly weakened with a number out on a Duke of Edinburgh weekend. Highlights of the season included Carter Walker's classy knocks of 85 and 55 to help win the games against Derby Grammar and Wisbech, Will Roberts's and Oliver Welch's excellent batting partnerships throughout the season and the bowling performances of Dominic McKaig and Kapil Soni against Bablake. Carter Walker, Oliver Welch and Will Roberts all scored over 150 runs for the season and Dominic McKaig, Kapil Soni and Carter Walker were the leading wicket takers.

#### **U14**

The U14s had an outstanding season, only losing once. To emphasize this strength, Aled King played all season for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Archie Heaney earned a call up towards the end of the year. The key to their success is liveliness in the field, with some outstanding catches being taken by the likes of Fin Back and Owen Lloyd, some incredibly tight bowling by Tom Page, James Turner and Archie Heaney, as well as some confident batting when needed. Their only loss of the season came in the last game, where they lost narrowly to Bablake, in a close game. The team was an absolute joy to coach. They started off the year as a good side and they have continued to improve.

#### **U13**

The U13s had a fine season, winning six matches and having their only loss on the last day of the season. From the first game, the team showed that they would be able to score runs on a regular basis. This proved to be true as the season progressed, with an average batting total of 139 runs from 20 overs. The star batsman proved to be Hugo Ziff, who scored two centuries (108 and 103 not out), but he was ably supported by fellow opener, Guy Heywood and Joint Captains, Jacob Storey and Joseph Davies. In the field, too, the team showed that they had ample talent, with 10 different bowlers taking wickets throughout the season. Top wicket takers, with 7 wickets a piece, were Jacob Storey, Joseph Davies and Temi Abiodun.

#### **U12**

The U12s had a relatively pleasing season and showed an excellent attitude to training, with very large numbers making the effort to be involved each week. They achieved a winning season through their hard work and have produced a solid start from which to develop. Cameron Mulvihill and George Binnie were the stars with the bat, whilst Cameron also looked dangerous when bowling.

### **Boys' Tennis**

It was a very busy, and ultimately very successful, season for boys' tennis this year: Both the Under 13s and Under 15s playing to an extremely high standard. This reflects the current strength in boys' tennis at Ratcliffe. The Under 15s got their season off to a perfect start with a 12-0 victory over John Fernely. This was followed up with a 10-2 win over Woodbrook. In their final match against Loughborough Grammar, luck was very much against them. A broken string at a crucial stage in the tie breaker resulted in the narrowest of losses. Well done to Krishan Jivanji, Dominic McKaig, Tom Binnie, Will Westwood, Jake Kirkby and Sam Offer for their contributions over the season.

The Under 13s recorded very impressive victories over both Woodbrook and Loughborough Grammar which resulted in a play off against a strong Leicester Grammar team for a place in the regional finals. An excellent evening's tennis saw Ratcliffe power to a 10-2 victory, securing their place in the regional finals, to be played sometime in September. Well done to Louie Fletcher, Joe Davies, Hugo Ziff and George Binnie for their excellent performances over the season.

Hopes are very high for the future, as there are a number of very talented tennis players coming through. Wednesday night tennis was always very well attended, reflecting the students' genuine interest in the sport.

## Girls' Tennis

	Seniors	U15A	U15B	U13A	U12
Played	4	7	3	4	1
Won	2	6	2	3	0
Lost	2	1	0	1	1
Drawn	0	0	1	0	0

### Seniors

The senior tennis team, once again, had a short but successful season. Rebecca Astill captained the team excellently and, along with her sister, Sarah Astill, did not drop a set all season. One of the highlights of the season was when the Year 13 players took on Welbeck, in a mixed doubles fixture; not only did all the players thoroughly enjoy this fixture, we managed to reverse last year's misfortune to win convincingly. I would like to extend a special thank you to Imogen Power, Tilly Wheeler and Rebecca Astill, for their commitment to senior tennis over the last few years, setting a great example for younger players; it has been great to see senior tennis debuts and regular appearances from Olivia Delargy and Isobel Hose, who we are sure will follow in the leavers footsteps, as senior tennis goes from strength to strength.

### U15/U13

It was an excellent tennis season with 15 matches played and 11 wins across the different age groups. All the squads trained hard and there was a pleasing level of improvement in the students' technical skills and game play. Eleanor Shaw and Rachel Astill led the charge with some strong serving and rallying, creating and putting away many winning opportunities as well as encouraging their partners to play more powerful shots. The team won three of their four Division One AEGON league games, none more exciting than beating Loughborough High in a 10-point tie break. Sofia Henderson and Mia Atkinson played some excellent tennis all term. Abigail Santaney and Annabel Mills thoroughly earned their places in the A team with Flora Colville playing for both the A and B teams. Sharmel Yapa, Samantha Seidu, Lucy Antill and Emily McBallantine all cemented their places with some accurate shots and good use of the angles on the court.

Most of the U13 team had their first experience of League tennis this season and it was a baptism of fire, especially as they had to play singles matches as well as doubles, winning one and losing one of their matches. In their two interschool matches, they performed admirably, beating Denstone and Kings's Warwick. Annie Rose Reddin was the find of the season, showing excellent game play and consistent, accurate shots and achieved several wins in her singles matches. Elise Atkinson, Maddi Bryant, Matilda Cregeen, with Amy Mason having her debut season, all played admirably.

The U12 tennis team of Ella Clark, Niara Popat, Shreya Mistry, Eleni Malhan, Chelsea Makandeni and Shreya Patel had their first experience of competitive tennis where they made impressive improvements in their play throughout the sets. There were some good rallies and they move the ball around the court well. Well done girls.

With a strong, sound group of players across the age groups, Ratcliffe tennis is flourishing.

## Rounders

The weather was kind to us and the majority of the school matches went ahead, with this being one of the most successful seasons in the past few years. We also managed to increase the number of teams this year and had six rounders teams.

	U15	U14A	U14B	U13A	U13B	U12A	U12b
Played	5	6	2	10	5	6	2
Won	2	4	1	7	4	3	2
Drew	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
lost	3	2	1	2	1	3	0

### U15

The U15 team had a tough set of fixtures but finished their season in style with an emphatic victory, beating Nottingham High School 17 - 5 ½. This showed the improvements they had made both in striking and fielding skills. Throughout the season, the girls demonstrated cohesive teamwork and Captain, Betsy Poll, was consistently outstanding, really showing a 'never say die' attitude and leading by example. Well done to all the girls!

### U14A

The U14A rounders team enjoyed a very successful season. Their commitment and attitude towards training could not be faulted and led to four convincing victories. Aimee Cleminson had a great season as bowler; similarly, Lauren Brown and Mimi Khan batted exceptionally well. Emma Turner's ability to place the ball when batting meant she was the highest scoring player. Well done to all the girls on an excellent season.

### U14B

The standard of play from the U14B team developed immensely since the start of the season. It was clear to see that the girls' understanding of the game improved, as they became increasingly adept at reading the game from both batting and fielding positions.

Dalila Watson naturally led the team, supporting the decision-making of the whole team, particularly when fielding. Well played to all the girls. They should be very proud of their positive and determined efforts towards training.

### U13

The Under 13s had a very successful season. There was strong competition for places for both A and B teams, which allowed all squad members to make excellent progress as they strived to be selected. The girls trained extremely well throughout the season, showing commitment, desire and great camaraderie. Their hard work and dedication paid off as the A and B teams combined lost only 3 games out of 15.

### U12A

All the girls in the U12A team worked hard throughout - training week in, week out, to improve their core skills and tactics, which resulted in improved match play over the course of the season. There was consistently excellent work from the dynamic trio of Holly Clark-Pratt, Eleni Malhan and Annie Jarvis, who controlled the games and got many players out.

### U12B

The U12B team had a short but very good season and remained unbeaten. They, too, worked and trained hard to build their core skills. Niara Popat controlled the game with her bowling skills and Lucy Tutty showed some excellent deep fielding to enable us to keep the score down. Matilda Miles and Isabelle Illsley-Ridge both dominated in batting.

## Rugby

	U12	U13B/CU12B/C	U13	U14	U15B/U14B	U15	2nds/U16	1sts
<b>Played</b>	12	14	12	10	7	10	8	14
<b>Won</b>	6	6	8	3	3	6	3	5
<b>Lost</b>	5	7	4	7	4	4	4	9
<b>Drawn</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Cancelled</b>	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	3

Despite a number of cancellations, particularly due to poor weather towards the end of the season, close to 90 matches were played, which is a testament to the commitment and efforts of players, parents (to ensure your son is available) and staff. This season has seen an increase in B team games and the introduction of some C team games in the younger age groups. We are hoping to expand on this further next season. Well done to everyone involved and thank you for your commitment to rugby at Ratcliffe College.

### 1<sup>st</sup> XV

The 1<sup>st</sup> XV consistently played some excellent rugby in every game that they played. However, they also had long passages of play where their opponents dominated all phases and, as we know, it is consistently good play that wins matches at this level! The playing record of 5 wins and 9 losses is possibly a fair reflection of this, although two of the defeats were by the smallest of margins (although admittedly 2 were won by similar margins) and, in both games, we had the chance to win the match with the last play of the game. On such moments, the season turns! What is not in doubt, is that the boys enjoyed the style of play developed through training. When they were 'on song' the rugby was a pleasure to watch, with backs and forwards combining to run good sides ragged. We just wish it had happened more often! The team had much in common with the current England side with several key players missing for long parts of the season. However, unlike England, Ratcliffe do not enjoy a large pool to select from and, whilst none of the replacements let anyone down, players like Harry Brooks, who only managed 3 matches all regular season, are very difficult to replace. As always we are reluctant to single out individuals in what is a classic team sport, but special thanks go to our Australian 'imports', Jackson Silvey and Cameron McCallum, who would have been brilliant if he had not broken his collar bone in the preseason warm up match! The side were well led by co-captains, Harry Brooks and Harry Heaney, who were at the heart of most of our magical moments. As well as those already mentioned, it is only right to acknowledge the individual achievements of Jon Sommerville, Henry Wells (the seasons top points scorer) and latterly, Alex Bown, along with Harry Brooks, whose talent was recognised by the County fifteens. With several key players leaving, the challenge is for the remaining '1st teamers' to show the way to a group of young and talented players from Years 10 & 11 who will come into the squad next season. Ratcliffe rugby will always have its ups and downs let's hope for more consistent ups! The side saved some of their best rugby for the Spring Term, comprehensively, beating Welbeck B and then staging a remarkable comeback to best Ashby Grammar to qualify for the County Plate final.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> XV

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV was filled with a lot of highs and lows throughout the season, with some stand out moments. The boys seemed to struggle at the start of most games, conceding at least two tries in the first few minutes, which meant we were always chasing the game. The boys showed great character in the second half of most games. Oliver Welsh, Alex Bown and George Linnett played consistently well, getting us over the gain line with some good carries. With some strong performances against Mount St Mary's and King Henry VIII, the boys proved to themselves that they could step up their game when they wanted too. Unfortunately, due to injuries in our 1<sup>st</sup> XV we lost players who moved up, most notably Harry Culpin, who played tremendously for us when on the field. Special mention must go to Carter Walker, Dagogo Apiafi and Matt Egglenton who seemed to improve more and more throughout the season. We wish Harry Thompson a speedy recovery thank you to the boys for a joyful season.

### **U15A**

The U15 team produced some sublime rugby at times and when they won, they won by large margins. They had an absolutely outstanding attitude to training and, as such, made real progress. They developed a comprehensive game plan, being able to attack through the forwards or through the backs. Their main strength was in their open field running, and they are blessed with pace and a good understanding of running lines. Tom Page and Stanly Chell were excellent at half-back, with Connor Foster and Archie Heaney a constant threat in the centres. The forwards were bolstered by the arrival of Logan Rattray-Moyes, as he added some bulk to the slightly lightweight but enthusiastic pack. The scrum and lineout both functioned well as they adapted positively to the new rules. Fine wins were achieved against Princethorpe, Wisbech, Bablake, King Henry's, Robert Smyth and De Lisle. Sadly, they missed out on a place in the County Cup Final after a number of players were struck down by illness and injury for their semi-final. Overall, it was a most enjoyable season, and the boys' excellent attitude and understanding of the game should mean they progress well into the senior squads next year.

### **U15/U14B**

The U15/14B team had a mixed season, losing four and winning three of their games – being unlucky to lose by one score in two of their games against Princethorpe and Pitsford. The work ethic, good discipline and the “never give up” attitude that was epitomised by captain, Guy Mills, meant that the team played well as a unit. The half-back pairing of Fin Hollington and Toby Blackmore worked hard in the games they played, and they were the architects of some fine running rugby and exciting tries. Guy Heywood, in all the games he played, showed strength in defence, making several last ditch tackles, stopping tries and organising the back line moving forward in attack. Mention also has to be made of Emeka Osuji who, when he played, always made a difference in attack and defence. The forwards, a cohesive unit from their first game to the last, showed good strength, with special mentions to Alex Thomas, Jacob McCahill, Ben Chilton, Ben Ashford, and Ollie Hunt who did everything that was asked of him, playing out of position at flanker. There was a notable debut in the backs for Calvin Poon who started the move that led to the try of the season scored by Toby Blackmore v King Henry's (a sweeping move from Ratcliffe's 10m line). Finally, it was an absolute pleasure to watch the team play, and display the kind of spirit and attitude that had built through the team during the season.

### **U14A**

The U14 rugby team recorded a mixed set of results, although the team began to find some form towards the back end of the season. The team are not without ability and the fixtures against Bablake, Mounty St Mary, and King Henry's were competitive despite ending in defeat. Arguably, the best performance was produced during the first game of the season, where Ratcliffe produced a battling display against Princethorpe, although wins against Leicester Grammar and Carres Grammar were also particularly pleasing. Captain, Dan McGunnigle had an excellent season and was the leading try scorer. His physicality on the pitch was regularly displayed and often caught the eye of opposition coaches. In the backline, he was ably assisted in defence by Cameron Cover and the diminutive but extremely agile, Rajen Gupta. Other standout players included; Number 8, Sam Moss, who scored an excellent hatrick of tries against Carres, Ollie Howard, who developed as a scrum-half throughout the season and Xavier Zanotti-Barranono, who, on his day, was instrumental in both attack and defence. Moving forward, the year group must hone their enthusiasm for the game into their training, and I am certain their results will improve.

### **U13A**

This team have been a pleasure to work with. They have been committed and motivated in training and they have shown a real passion for the game in matches. Tyler Black has been an excellent Captain, literally leading from the front and being a terror to the opposition at every breakdown. The powerhouses up front really came into their own in the second half of the season, culminating in a display of real authority in dismantling Leicester Grammar in the last game of the season. Ethan Starley showed his U12 form with his power running, Hugo Illingworth has been immense in defence and Tobias Nesbitt has made significant improvements to his all round game. Tom Leighton showed excellent distribution skills to allow the backs time and space to utilise their assets. Cameron

Mulvihill is developing into an excellent playmaker with his excellent passing and running skills and also in his improved decision making. Phelton Tandoh has played in a variety of positions but was utilised most effectively as an outside back where his devastating running made him an unstoppable force. Joe Atkinson showed a fantastic work rate and mazy running skills and that most useful ability to be able to sniff out the try line. David Seidu showed glimpses of quality last season but he has been an absolute revelation this season combining blistering speed with the uncanny ability to change direction without actually appearing to slow down! This, combined with his superb tackling, made him a key player in both attack and defence. There is still much to work for this team to achieve their full potential. Slow starts cost us dearly in a number of matches and improved tackle technique needs to be a whole team focus moving forwards. Well done to all on a very good season.

### **U13/U12B**

Whilst the team's results have been mixed, with five wins, six defeats and one draw, there is no doubting the boys' commitment and motivation. Particular highlights include the 40 – 15 victory over Wisbech, the 25 – 10 triumph at King Henry's and the close loss to Leicester Grammar. In all these performances, the boys showed such grit and determination against some tough opponents. They have a real desire to push themselves and improve every week. The team has shown real dedication in improving their breakdown technique and offloading skills. The boys have always endeavoured to play lots of running rugby, getting the ball out to our speedsters on the wing, like Ibrahim Hussain and Sam Davies. In all these performances, the boys showed real grit and determination against some tough opponents. They have a desire to push themselves and improve every week. The team has been excellently captained by Daniel Bailey who exhibited a great deal of maturity and leadership in many trying situations, becoming a great role model for the younger students brought into the team. Tristan Turner has played almost every position in the backline and has excelled in all of them, becoming master of the chip-chase! Henry Urwin has been a rock in the centres, both tackling hard and running with real power. Both Ezra Starley and Mathew Heywood have learnt to channel their aggression to become the players who always lead by example from the front of the pack. Laurence Brazill should be commended for his tough tackling and never say die attitude. Many Year 7 students, such as Lucas Kariolis and Vincent McKeefrey, have made a very positive contribution, playing against many older students. It has been tremendously pleasing to see so many of the squad pushing for places in the A team. It has been a privilege to coach this group of boys, and I am confident they will continue their rugby development into the next season.

### **U12A**

The season saw the U12A team draw one, lose four and win six games. The boys showed great enthusiasm in every game and in training sessions and have now developed a good platform for them to build on in the coming years. The team was led by Charlie Grayson who was new to Ratcliffe this year. Charlie led by example and always gave it his all on the pitch, whether it be training session or fixture. There were many great tries scored throughout the season from both the backs and the forwards. The tries started to fly in from the very first match of the season with a comprehensive 50 - 0 win against De Lisle College and good wins followed against Princethorpe, Oundle, Wisbech and Lutterworth High School. There were some 'blips' along the way but the team were always fully committed and worked hard to improve areas of weakness. With a good scrum-half in George Atkinson, it enabled quick ball to be fed out consistently to fly half, Henry King. Henry's ball distribution skills came on leaps and bounds throughout the season and this allowed players such as Finley Spencer, Harry Cregeen, Harry Carroll and Sam Pick to utilise their pace out wide. Ratcliffe had some outstanding players working hard upfront, in the forwards. Players such as Will Pearce, Harry Watson and Kai Kirk were virtually impossible to stop when they had the ball in hand, and trust me, you did not want to be tackled by them. The forwards weren't just there to run through players and make big tackles, and players like Riley Kirk also showed the ability to run elusively in the wider channels. Despite none being large in stature, the top tackler awards go to George Atkinson, Finley Spencer and Riley Kirk who were often putting boys twice their size to the ground with excellent technique. Well done on a good season and the boys must stay committed to their future rugby training enabling them to go from strength to strength.

## Girls' Hockey

It has been another successful year in the development of Girls Hockey at Ratcliffe. For the first time we have fielded 10 teams with the introduction of the U13B team. This number of teams has meant that even more girls have had the opportunity to represent the school in competitive matches, which in turn has resulted in healthier competition for places. There have been some great results in all competitions and fixtures, with another first being the U13 and 1XI taking part in the Independent Schools Hockey Cup. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students, staff and parents that have supported Girls Hockey this year.

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

The 1<sup>st</sup> team has enjoyed a good year, with some great results along the way. They have shown a great attitude from the start of the season and this has been mirrored in their performances in matches. The style of play we adopted this year allowed us to attack with great pace, resulting in some excellent team goals being scored. It has been great to have Olivia Back, once again as Captain, who has been supported greatly by Eleanor Godwin as Vice-Captain.

The side have been a pleasure to coach, due to the fact that they have gelled together so well and played as a complete unit all year. In goal, both Amy Baxter and Elle Hall have played well and commanded their circles. In defence, we have had a solid unit with Jenna Pole, Sharmel Yapa and Eleanor Godwin all having good seasons. Out wide, we had great pace and energy displayed by Molly Edwards and Isobel Hose. Our inside forwards of Olivia Back, Mia Atkinson, Kate Tyszka and Nicole Spencer have terrorised defences. Up top, our high forwards, Olivia Carpenter, Flora Colville and Isobel Thomas, have worked tirelessly, which has been rewarded through the goals they have scored. A special mention must go to Isobel Coombs and Alex Offer who have also been part of the squad this year. There have been many highlights from this season but there have been a couple that have stood out. First game of the season, the girls came flying out the blocks to beat Bromsgrove 11 – 0. Another highlight this year was how the girls dominated the County Tournament and stunned a lot of big opposition and rivals. This year was also a year of firsts as the 1XI made their debut at the Indoor County Tournament, again performing superbly. Summing everything up, if you ask the girls what has been key this year then I am sure they will all say there is only one message want and desire.

Well done, girls, on a great season and a big thankyou to all those who have turned up to support, in all weather conditions.

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> team had a mixed year with some good results and some rather disappointing ones. However, their performances were always pleasing. The most positive aspect of the team was the team spirit and co-operation that the girls showed to each other. This is vital when you have a large number of Year 11s stepping up to senior hockey for the first time, which is exactly what we had. Elle Hall and Abigale Santaney were strong at the back, Bo Henderson dynamic in mid-field and Jade England energetic all-around the pitch. Alongside these, we had a core of Year 12s and 13s who have been outstanding for the team over the last few years including Lara Addison, Niamh Delargy, Ibbie Duckett, Lucie Prusinski, Mollie Page and Annie Bridgwater. This team will definitely be remembered for their fun spirit in training and goal celebrations.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> XI**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> team had an exciting season with a busy fixture list. We approached the first game of the season against Uppingham with caution; however, the girls played some brilliant hockey, resulting in a nail biting 0 – 0 finish. After this first game, the girls seemed to become more encouraged and some great sessions followed throughout the season. This was shown in the next game against Denstone, which was a great fiery game of hockey, and we came out with a brilliant 1 – 0 win, the first of the season and a fantastic goal by Betsy Poll. The girls have shown great spirit and teamwork this year. Caitlin Lawrence found her feet as a great defender, keeping a strong unit at the back with Holly Bown and Bea Waters; they were constantly making our ever changing keeper life that bit

easier. Izzy Pullen and Ellie Hollinshead completely controlled the midfield play and by the end of the season, they seemed to work effortlessly together making some great runs and attacking plays down the pitch. Sophia Henderson and Betsy Poll again found a brilliant partnership upfront working the space well together and making fantastic runs up the wings. Although at times, the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI had somewhat of a hard time during this season, it was great to see the majority of the girls put in a great amount of time and effort into the team. The hockey that was played was of a good standard and all of the girls should be congratulated on what they have achieved individually and as a team this season.

### **U15A**

The U15A team have had a mixed season and one of two halves. The first half of the season was not kind to us, with some tough fixtures and some very unlucky losses which could have gone either way. However, despite this, the girls kept their cheery disposition and trained with enthusiasm and energy, somewhat helped by the team warm up; performed to music and the comradery between the whole squad. The girls showed a wonderful commitment to training and fixtures, led by Captain, Aimee Cleminson, on and off the pitch. Their first win was an excellent performance and followed a further two wins, one of which was a high scoring 6 – 0 win against Our Lady's Convent School. We then had to put in some gritty performances to come from behind to secure a couple of draws, finishing the season with a much more solid second half. Maddie Lindop finished the season as top goal scorer, with the rest of the goals spread out between a number of girls. The team has been amply supported by the parents, turning out whatever the weather. This was appreciated by both the staff and girls and spurring on some great results. I have had such a lovely time coaching a great bunch of talented girls. I really hope they move up to senior hockey with the same energy, commitment and enthusiasm as they have shown this year.

### **U15/U14B**

The season for the Under 15/14 B team was one of many ups and downs. The girls came into the season having not won a game in the previous season. They knew that all the fixtures were going to be a fight to change that. The season started off with some very tough fixtures, with the girls struggling to get a win. However, the performance of the girls improved week on week without fault, as did the passion and dedication. The positive attitude shown by the girls finally resulted in an outstanding improvement of hockey ability. A fantastic never give up attitude only got stronger after the serious injury to Captain, India Clarke. With India missing a couple of matches mid-season, the girls stepped up and did themselves proud. This fantastic attitude resulted in the first win that the girls had seen in a season and a half! Against local rivals Nottingham High School, the game was a tough fought 2 – 1 win, which actually did not replicate how well the girls played. They finished the season on terrific form and have set themselves up for a fantastic few years of hockey ahead of them at Ratcliffe. They should all be very proud of how they played and presented themselves throughout the hockey season.

### **U14A**

The U14 Hockey team had a very positive season with five wins and two draws. The girls took a few matches to settle in and meet the demands of hockey at this level. However, after that, they proved a side with great potential. The girls trained at a high intensity and should be commended on their team spirit and their perseverance to win and improve their hockey. The first 3 matches saw the girls lose to very strong and organised sides who played at a fast pace and had some stand out play-makers that made the difference. After a well-fought 1 – 1 draw at Wisbech, the season started to change for the girls, seeing wins against Oakham, Denstone, Leicester Grammar and Oundle. This was due to some excellent skills and distribution in midfield from Elise Atkinson and outstanding goalkeeping from Mathilda Cregeen. In a tough match against national qualifying team, Hill House, the girls showed real determination and fight until the end. Captain, Amy Mason, really led by example, showing that her team would never give up. The final two games saw a draw against Wellingborough and a win against Quinton House. This was down to the unstoppable defence combination of Maddi Bryant, Millie Chapman and Verity Mangham. The girls were a vibrant and enthusiastic group who have been an absolute pleasure to work with. They really are a squad with a great deal of talent and potential. They should be congratulated on their hard work and efforts this year – well done!

### **U13A**

The U13A team had a season with mixed results and came up against a number of tough opposition. Despite their results, each of the players in the team improved greatly throughout the season. They showed great grit and determination and this was one of the defining characteristics of the team. All the girls were incredibly vocal, both on and off the pitch and were a pleasure to work with. Isabella Illsley-Ridge, for the short time she played in goal made great saves and was supported by an energetic defence containing some stand out performers, Chelsea Makandeni, Holly Clark-Pratt and Coral Keats. Most of our attacking threat was provided by Tilly Miles, Tallulah Wood and Annie Jarvis. The girls have great potential and have shown a great attitude towards training and matches. They never failed to make their coach laugh, despite never giving him a moments peace and quiet on the bus journeys to away fixtures.

### **U13B**

The U13B team had a mixed season this year with a number of close losses, but the majority of fixtures came out as draws or wins. With Captain, Eleni Malhan, leading the team, they put out a notable performance against Nottingham High School, winning 5 – 1. An excellent tempo to the game meant the girls led from the start, growing in confidence as the game went on, a trend that was noted in many of the fixtures this year. Ella Clark and Amelia Tebbutt provided great strength to our attack and proved troublesome for many defenders. With Olivia Chapman in goal, we had a strong defensive unit, which reflected our four winning games. The improvement from all individuals in the squad was excellent and the girls should be proud of how they represented the school in all fixtures.

### **U12A**

The U12 hockey squad were an absolute delight to coach. Every Tuesday, an average of 26 girls trained with exuberance, a willingness to learn and work hard. Training as a squad saw the girls push themselves as they fought for starting places in the A and B teams, raising the bar every time they trained.

The A teams' results of six wins, one draw and two losses is testament to the progress they made. An early 4 – 0 win over Kimbolton was well deserved as the girls worked hard to move the ball around the pitch. Princethorpe held them to a 1 – 1 draw, whilst they had to fight to the bitter end to pull off a fanatastic, nail-biting 5 – 4 win over King's, Warwick. Wisbech were a tough opposition and the girls found this difficult to contend with, losing 3 – 1, but this spurred them on to secure confident wins over Denstone, Nottingham High School and Hill House. Jessie Bardsley was a real find, putting her football goalkeeping skills into action, as she took no prisoners when coming off her line in one-on-one situations. The defensive pairing of Avani Gupta and Maddie Whalley were solid and set up many counter attacks led by mid-fielders, 'Misses cool under pressure' – Zoe Howling and Hollie Chapman. Forward, Daisy Reddin ran miles in every game, covering a vast area of the pitch, so keen was she to chase down every ball from almost every position on pitch and such was her desire to get the ball. This resulted in her scoring some very well taken and well deserved goals. Georgie Daynes came into her own in the second half of the season, playing wide on the right, setting up many goal scoring opportunities for Daisy and Sophie Shield. Watch out for this squad of players as they have a lot of potential.

### **U12B**

The U12B team saw many girls get the opportunity to represent the School and they should be proud of their five wins and one draw from their eight games. Two early wins over Princethorpe and King's, Warwick gave them much confidence which they built upon to beat Denstone and Nottingham High School. Connie Colville led by example, calm under pressure, distributing the ball well whilst Rosie Dickerson, playing hockey for the first time ever, scored several goals using the competitive spirit she shows in the pool. Ella Rose Seymour, Sophie Packwood and Millie Woan all showed some good ball skills and each scored several goals from being in the right place at the right time.

Well done to all the girls who were part of the squad - the future looks rosy.

## Boys' Hockey

This season has turned out well for Boys Hockey at Ratcliffe. We have again fielded nine teams, which has given a large percentage of boys, in each age group, the opportunity to be involved in matches, on a regular basis. There have been some great results in all competitions and fixtures, with the U13s, U15s and 1<sup>st</sup> team taking part in the Independent Schools' Hockey Cup. The U15s had some great success in this competition as they progressed into later stages, only to be narrowly beaten in the last 16 of the tournament. In addition, at U12 and U13 level, we have had some great results recently at the County Tournaments with both teams finishing in the top two and will now go on to represent the County at Regional level. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students, staff and parents that have supported Boys' Hockey this year.

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

The 1<sup>st</sup> team have had a mixed and tough season. They have always shown great spirit and have always given everything into their performances. The most pleasing aspect about the team is the ability to support each other on and off the pitch. Results have been mixed but they have had some great wins against Nottingham High and Hill House. They also played brilliantly in the second round of the ISHC where they lost on penalty flicks to a good RGS High Wycomb side. Unfortunately, due to the adverse weather during February, a lot of the fixtures had to be cancelled, which was a shame, as the boys had just started to find some rhythm. The team has a nice balance of students from Years 11,12 and 13, which is a good prospect for the next couple of the seasons. Harry Culpin has had a great season in goal and he has been well protected by full backs Callum Allsopp, Harrison Grimmett, Ben Dexter and Captain, Jack Nightingale. The full back, Harry Heaney and Mathew Lindley have worked hard up and down the pitch, in both attack and defence. Tom Binnie has had a great season at centre half, with Mathew Ward and Alex Purcell also having steady seasons in front of him. The forwards work rate has been outstanding this year with David Hippisley-Cox, Sebastian Cook, Reece Goodman and Sam Bird all having good seasons. Toby Snell has been a valuable addition to the team this year as he is one of those players that can play in different positions and has done so with great competency. A special mention must go to Harry Best and Dominic McKaig who have also had debuts this year for the 1<sup>st</sup> team. I would like to say a thank you to Mr Spires and Mr Gilchrist who have both helped and supported the team.

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> team have had a positive season regarding performances. Unfortunately, the results suggest a different story. The current squad of boys have plenty of potential and many have another two years in senior hockey. This being said, there has been a core of Year 12 and 13 boys to help them through some of the tough games thus far, including Ganesh Thapa in goal, Jack Vinall, Olutomi Mosaku and John Sommerville. They have never backed away from a challenge, even though there have been a couple over the term. Captain, Dempsey Mayne, has organised a young defence and he has certainly been helped by Matthew Elton. The midfield has had an injection of pace and creativity this year from Dominic McKaig and Joshua Chapman, while Tom Scarborough and Oliver Welch have caused teams all sorts of problems. More pace and flair has been added upfront, from the likes of Henry Wells, Alexander Bown and top goal scorer, Harry Best. We hope to finish the season on a high against Worksop.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> XI

The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI have been a great team to coach this year and the boys have been a pleasure to work with. Despite some of our fixtures being cancelled due to the weather, they have made some great improvements in the games that we have played and in training. They always turn up with a great attitude, a desire to learn and, most importantly, the desire to win games of hockey. At the beginning of the season, they were very disjointed and faced some tough opposition but, since then, they have begun to play some nice hockey as a team. There are some fun and lively characters in the squad that have meant there has never been a dull moment and this has only added to the enjoyment of working with these boys. We hope for a win before the season is finished and have something to show for the hard work that the boys have put in.

### U15A

The U15A team season has been one that has been a pleasure to coach. From day one, the boys have put their heart and soul into training sessions and match days. Their team cohesion is second to none, which is what has made them such an unstoppable force throughout the entirety of the 2018 season. Alex Tyszka led the team well during the course of the season, showing strong leadership and dedication on the pitch as well as off. Some of the lads have played in different positions in comparison to what they have been used to from previous seasons. The way in which the team responded to this was fantastic, thriving to improve playing in new positions. They also had a fantastic run in the Independent Schools' Hockey Cup, beating Nottingham High School comfortably in the first round; then making a very long journey to Cheshire to win a well fought game against Sandbach. Unfortunately,

they were knocked out by QEGS Wakefield in the third round thanks to two goals against the run of play. The game, was however, a fantastic example of the boys' commitment and dedication to the team. It is clear that the boys love playing hockey and they love doing so as part of such a brilliant squad. The boys have put themselves into a fantastic position ahead of Senior hockey over the next year at the very least. The win rate of the season has been nothing short of phenomenal by the U15 boys, each individual should be very proud, not only of his hockey, but also his sportsmanship. It has been a genuine pleasure to coach this team of boys. All of the boys who have been a part of this squad throughout the year should be immensely proud of themselves not only for their hockey ability but also their attitude.

#### **U15/U14B**

The U15Bs had a slow start to the season taking a while to bond and start playing together as a team. In their first few matches we came up against some strong opposition who were able to take advantage of this and consequently we suffered a few defeats. Regardless of the results, the boys didn't drop their heads and never stopped giving their all. Their brilliant attitude paid off when we came up against Oakham and they started to play to the potential they were capable of. This is clearly reflected in the 7 - 0 score line. Since then, the boys have continued to perform well individually and as a team, with some outstanding saves from Jacob McCahill who was supported by his defence with some excellent performances from Dominic Goodman and Jeff Chan. Special mentions must also go to Captain, Thomas Leite, for controlling the game in midfield and to Henry Coombs and Samuel Seidu for their continued attacking threat. It has been an honour to coach the boys this season, and they should be proud of themselves for how far they have come and the quality of hockey they have played. Well done boys!

#### **U14A**

The team have worked with an outstanding attitude and have been very eager to learn. Goal-scoring was their obvious weakness from the beginning of their lessons and potentially the absence of any real star players. However, a can do attitude and the miraculous conversion of Wilson Lee to a goal-scoring superstar transformed their season. They started with a loss despite playing well against Trent and then gradually improved. They were unlucky in the County Cup, playing out close games against Uppingham and Loughborough. After that, their season really picked up with a draw against Kimbolton and then wins against Hill House and Nottingham High School. Sadly, the terrible weather took away some of their momentum and, currently, they are still waiting to play another fixture. Ben Jackson was rock solid in goal behind a defence that has only conceded in one of the four regular season games. Daniel McGunnigle really developed as a rampaging full back. Captain, Xabier Zanotti Baranano, controlled things in central midfield whilst Wilson Lee was a revelation up front.

#### **U13A**

The Under 13 Hockey squad enjoyed a very enjoyable season developing an exciting style of play. All of the squad are becoming very comfortable in possession and enjoy scoring goals! The defensive aspects of their play is very much 'work in progress', but they are aware of their frailties and work hard to correct this. This goes a long way to explain why their playing record is not as good as it should be, for a team of such potential, but a record of played nine, won five and lost four is nothing to be ashamed of, on what is a very competitive fixture circuit. Fortunately for the team, they have an outstanding goalkeeper in Jaidev Nanuwa to call upon when the opponents break through. The team have been very well led by Sam Gray and Cameron Mulvihill, both in terms of captaincy and, more importantly, their influence on the game whilst Harry Gamble is fast becoming a deadly finisher, making him our top goal scorer by a long way. However, the find of the season has probably been Wilfred Milner who is equally adept playing in any of the outfield positions, showing good ball skills and, perhaps most encouragingly, a good understanding of the game. The fact that Wilf plays at the back in the 7-a-side team and as a forward in the 11 a-side format shows his versatility. By the time this report is read out to you the Midlands tournament will have been played. Here's hoping for a positive addendum!

#### **U13/12B**

The U13/U12Bs have had a tough season this year. The team was captained by Hugo Illingworth with Harvey Henderson as his vice-captain, both working extremely well on and off the field. The team have put in 100% effort into every training session and always turn up on game day with a fantastic attitude and give it their all. They have had some very tough opponents which included Trent College, Nottingham High and Loughborough Grammar School. Throughout the season, there was some fantastic work in defence. A few players which stand out for their great defensive skills are Lucas Kariolis, Tobias Chilton and Vice-captain, Harvey Henderson. Working well in the midfield were players such as Jacob and Joe Butler, Max Diaz and Josh Lee. Hugo Illingworth and Matt Collyer formed a great partnership together whilst playing in attack and managed to score some great goals. If the boys continue to train with the same intensity and passion, we are sure they will keep on developing and make a fantastic team.

## U12A

This team have been enthusiastic, hardworking and willing to learn and, as a result, they have been an excellent squad to work with. They have coped well with side-line rants demanding 'high work rate' and 'end products' to develop into a cohesive team who have played some very good hockey. A strong start to the season saw an unbeaten run with a draw against Kimbolton and wins against Nottingham High, Hill House and Loughborough Grammar before the Beast from the East put a stop to any meaningful hockey for a number of weeks. A well fought County Tournament saw the boys beat Leicester Grammar and Loughborough Grammar on the way to the final before coming up short against an outstanding Oakham School team. Finishing second in the tournament has meant the team have qualified for the Midlands Regional Finals. A good spine to the team has seen goalkeeper, Henry King, become an excellent shot stopper. Tom Ferrier and Will Pierce are developing a strong defensive partnership whilst Riley Kirk and Fin Spencer have had the appetite and work rate to dominate the midfield. Harry Cregeen, with his finishing and Kai Kirk with his movement, have been a menace up front and Ollie Pole, Sam Pick, Sam Davies, Ed Offer, Sebastian Welch, George Atkinson, Harry Carroll and Oscar Webster have all made good contributions. Well done to the team on an excellent season.

## Netball

	1st	2nd	3rd	U15 A	U15 B	U14 A	U14 B	U13 A	U13 B	U12A	U12B
<b>Played</b>	7	3	1	7	5	10	5	8	6	8	5
<b>Won</b>	6	0	0	1	1	6	1	2	2	4	2
<b>Lost</b>	1	2	1	6	4	3	3	6	4	4	3
<b>Drawn</b>	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Cancelled</b>	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0

It has been a frustrating netball season as more than the usual number of fixtures have been cancelled. Ice cold, freezing conditions does not lend itself to catching a ball cleanly but all the coaches have been proud of the way the girls have knuckled down both in lessons, training and matches, even playing in sleet. Even more impressive, is our merry band of parents, fuelled by the new mobile coffee cart, who have had to invest in full sets of thermals this winter. We have continued to run 11 teams across the full age groups, and I should thank the non PE staff who have assisted the PE department on Saturdays.

Isobel Hose has progressed into the Yorkshire U19 Performance Academy and Liyah Pinsent-Heskey with the Leicestershire U16 squad.

### 1<sup>st</sup> VII

The 1<sup>st</sup> team had a hard act to follow after last year but Olivia Back and I were determined to make our last year a good one. However, losing the whole of last year's defence meant a change of positions, with Nicole Spencer changing position again to become a formidable defender, ably abetted by Isobel Thomas, who frustrated many opposition shooters with their change of tactics from man to man marking into a zone defence. Year 11 players, Mia Atkinson, Ellie Hollinshead and Sharmel Yapa successfully made the step up to 1VII, once they got their heads around the tenacity required. With only one loss to our name, the match of the season has to be the one goal victory against Wisbech where we were behind throughout the game until the final play of the game when we scored the winning goal in the dying seconds. Denstone gave us a run for our money, but the rest of the fixtures were comfortable, high scoring wins, resulting from great turnovers and interceptions from Nicole and Isobel which enabled Sharmel, Mia and the outstanding athleticism of Olivia, who can sprint from five meters away and pluck a ball out of nowhere, then feed the ball safely to Kate, Issy and Ellie. It has been a fabulous season, well done to everyone, including Kate Tyszka who has led well as Captain.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> VII

The 2<sup>nd</sup> team have had a mixed season but despite this, in every game the girls played, I was extremely impressed with their work rate and the standard they set themselves. It was fantastic to see a number of Year 11s step up

and make their mark on court; in particular, Bo Henderson, Abigale Santaney and Holly Vinall. Captain Jenna Pole and Isobel Coombs led by example, providing excellent consistency in performances, whilst Olivia Carpenter really came into her own. She added great defensive strength to the team taking interceptions off any GA that came close. A special mention should go to Joanna Chan, a new member of the Sixth Form who played Netball for the first time this season after being persuaded to convert from Basketball and has been a huge asset, particularly in the shooting circle. The potential in this team is undeniable and it has been a pleasure to be able to work with them this year. I would like to wish them all the best for next year

### **3<sup>rd</sup> VII**

Unfortunately, there has been very few games for the 3<sup>rd</sup> team with many schools unable to field a team. They have trained well and worked hard and enjoyed the few games they have played.

### **U15A**

The girls' U15A team have had a challenging season, facing some well versed, strong physical sides from Solihull, Hill House and Northampton. The girls have trained hard and have shown fighting mentality in every game. They are to be congratulated for bouncing back every time, showing perseverance, determination and commitment. Their best game of the season was against Denstone, where they narrowly lost by a single goal. Danni Hendry and Dalila Watson have run the show all season from the defensive circle and they have turned over a large percentage of play. Lauren Brown and Eleanor Shaw's cohesive movement in the attacking circle should be commended, especially Lauren as she stepped up to shooter for the first time this year. Danni Hendry has been a fantastic Captain and led by example as has Amy Cleminson who has been the linchpin between attack and defence, using the space well and timing her moves to receive transitional passes from the defence.

### **U15B**

The B team have had a mixed season this term with absences and many fixtures cancelled. In every match they have worked hard, with Mimi Khan and Ella De Caestecker making a good defensive pairing. Shooters, India Clark and Sophie Brown, have formed a good partnership with their height a definite advantage. Isabella Mulvihill has been exceptional - cool, calm and collected, and should be commended for her commitment and improvement this season. Well done girls.

### **U14A**

The U14A team are a team to watch out for in the future. Their commitment and motivation in training and matches, coupled with their fighting spirit, has stood them in good stead. After losing in the semi-final of their county tournament, the team has trained exceptionally well, taking on board new tactics and strategies. Elise Atkinson has been the stand out player with her ability to play important roles both in defence and centre court and she was the driving force behind the team. Tenacious in defence with her 'never say die' attitude, she formed a good partnership with Milly Chapman and Maddi Bryant, and instigated much of the transitional play for Annie Rose Reddin and Rachel Astill to put away. Rachel forged her way into the A team with her new found shooting accuracy and ability to stay strong and hold off her defender. Ella McNeeney's agility and change in speed and determination saw her make a strong partnership with feisty centre, Amy Mason, ably supported by Annie Bridgwood.

### **U14B**

Despite a couple of heavy defeats, the B team have remained positive and should be proud of the improvement they have made in their game play. Training alongside the A team has given them inspiration and partnering them has made them work harder to stay with them. Standout performances from Marley Totton and Olivia Crawley have not gone un-noticed whilst Daata Apiafi has become a force to be reckoned with in defence. By the end of the season, Jess Elton started to believe in her own ability as did Daisy Watson and Freya Smith.

### U13

The U13 girls have shown a huge commitment to both training and matches and it has been lovely to see so many girls training and representing the school throughout the season. Though results have not always gone our way, there has been a massive improvement in their play and game awareness. The girls have always shown their determination and fighting spirit, playing some excellent netball. This was particularly true in the Denstone match where both the A and B teams had great victories, with the B team coming back from a losing position to a winning one, which brought a smile to Miss Stafford's face! Captains, Eleni Malhan (A team) and Shreya Mistry (B team) have shown maturity and a hardworking attitude, in which both teams have learnt from. There has been lots of new faces and students trying out different positions this term. This will mean a healthy competition for places next year. Most notably, Amelia Tebbutt, Olivia Chapman and Fisayo Abiodun who have all cemented their places in the B team. The A team have all had a chance to play in different positions, showing their versatility and willingness to learn, with Annie Jarvis, discovering a natural ability to shoot. There is much to build on from this season and if the girls can hone in on some of their core skills as well as slow their play down, they really will see the positives on the court. It has been a pleasure to coach them, I know they are a feisty bunch and will be determined to improve in all areas of their play.

### U12

The U12 teams have had a good season of netball, with some great matches being played and some great players emerging. In the Autumn Term, they played in the team Leicester league, winning all of their group matches with ease and progressed through to the semi-final where they came up against a well organised Loughborough High School team. These pre-season matches set them up for the season. The start of the season started off with a bit of a bump for both the A and B teams as they faced an exceptionally strong Solihull team tough opposition but this inspired them to keep working hard on their game. This paid off against Denstone which was a turning point for the A team. Jessica Bardsley and Maddie Whalley worked superbly well together as a defensive unit and the season went from strength to strength as they won the next four games. Katherine McCrindell and Sophie Walker worked their magic in the D with their movement in the circle, self-confidence and shooting improving week on week. The centre court players, Daisy Reddin, Avani Gupta and Hollie Chapman controlled the play of the games and held the team together. The B team came away with a fantastic 9 - 0 victory over Denstone and carried on with their winning streak with a superb 12-4 win over Northampton High School. Connie Colville and Zoe Howling developed their understanding of the game fantastically, taking control of the games so they could dictate the pace of the play. Romi White and Ruby Lord came on leaps and bounds during the season and have become skilled defenders, always keeping the oppositions scores low.

All of the girls in the U12 netball squad should be congratulated on their efforts and improvements during this season. It has been brilliant to end the season being able to address the girls as a collective squad rather than as two separate teams. This really emphasises the progress that all of the girls have made during the season and they should all be excited to see what next year's netball offers.

