



The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Newsletter

April 2016



Students enjoy
another
Outstanding
term



Reading leading to the pleasure of writing

World Book Day

Students have worked with artist Barry Spence to create a special reading bench to celebrate World Book Day (Thursday 3rd March). The bench, bearing characters in the style of artist Quentin Blake, will provide a dedicated reading place in school. Unveiling the bench was a highlight of a packed week of activities, as students expanded their love of reading.

They were also challenged to create their own opening lines for a story, and these went on display on World Book Day itself, and others tackled the World Book Day *Bumper Book Quiz*.

In many different lessons, students read from many different books, giving a boost to literacy across all subjects. Our Literacy Leader students called in to classrooms around the school all week to give surprise readings from some famous tales.



It wasn't just our own students who benefited too. Pupils from St Luke's enjoyed their own drama and creative writing workshops, with our own author in residence, Mark Wright.

Teacher of English Mrs Howell said, "World Book Day is always a fantastic opportunity for students to enjoy reading, and to find new stories. This year we have developed students' reading to influence their imaginative writing."



On #twitter? Follow the school @theradcliffe

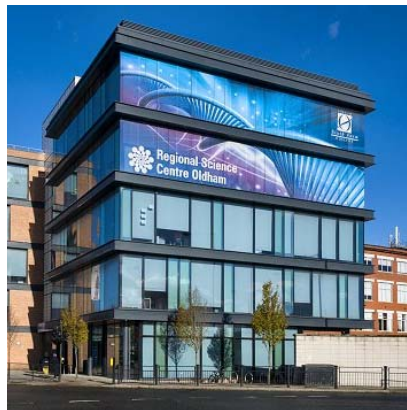
Excellent experiments at the Regional Science Centre

British Science Week 2016

Science students in Year 10 took part in some exciting experiments at Oldham's Regional Science Centre to celebrate British Science Week.

During the visit to the Oldham Sixth Form College building the group tried their hand at making ice cream from liquid nitrogen, racing balloon hovercraft and creating electronic t-shirts.

The youngsters also spoke with Year 12 ambassadors from the college, helping to inspire them about the possibilities in studying science A levels at the centre, the location for Oldham Sixth Form's science facilities.



Steps to achieving potential in Science

Personal Revision Guides, A & A evening*

We are delighted by the excellent results students achieve at GCSE, but we're not resting on our laurels; we want to ensure that every student achieves the very highest grades they are capable of.

In Science, students sitting their GCSEs this summer have received Personalised Revision Guides. Based on their performance in pre public exams this term, they receive extra help directly in those areas where they need some extra focus. The guides are tailored to each individual student.

Students received their guides at a special A* & A Parents Evening, which aimed to show parents how best they could support their children to achieve the highest grades. Teacher of Science Miss Sheerin said, "The evening was well received and was useful and informative. It certainly helps the students and gives parents a better understanding of how they can help at home."

You can find out more at www.theradclyffschool.co.uk

Twitterbriefs

School News in fewer than 140 characters

Are you on Twitter? Follow @TheRadclyffe

Very good showing by our #boccia team at GM School Games. Won through to final but ended in narrow defeat so well done to @McrAcademy

How are you doing with your @Readathon reading? Remember you can read whatever you enjoy and you're backing some superb #charities

Year 10 Gifted & Talented students looked at options after #GCSEs and A-Levels. Visited the @UniofOxford to do so

Well done to the 7 successful candidates elected to @OldhamYC incl our own Sarah Nazir and Mohammed Adam Hussain



Students on the lookout for Careers *North West Skills Event*

The North West's biggest interactive careers, jobs and skills event was the exciting destination for a group of our Year 11 students. They took the opportunity to explore options for post 16 training and study, to discover what's next!

With exhibitors as diverse as Aldi, the Civil Service, careers in Adult Social Care as well as universities and colleges, the event provided plenty of inspiration for students' future careers.

Skills North West is part of a national series of careers, jobs and skills events. It brought our young people face-to-face with employers, training providers, professional bodies and sector-specific organisations.

The students took advantage of hands on activities and demonstrations helping them to focus on their areas of interest.



Excellent English results

Early entry proves a continuing success

In January more than 280 students in Year 11 took the opportunity to sit their GCSE English exams early.

Their performance has been outstanding, with 74% achieving A*-C grades and 29% achieving A*/A grades. Everyone is very proud of their achievement.

This isn't the end of it, of course. At The Radclyffe School, early entry allows students to gain early experience of exam conditions, and an opportunity to improve their grade in the summer. We believe that what is important for all students is the final grade they achieve. Whilst this may have an adverse effect on our 'league table' place, we regard our students' achievement as more important.

KS4 Prefects on duty

Meet our new prefects

Our new KS4 prefects have received their ties and started their duties around school. When students apply to be a prefect they obtain a reference from a member of staff, and write a letter of application, saying what they can bring to the role, and what responsibility they have held both in and out of school. Year Manager for Year 10, Miss Hunt said, "The job of prefect is very rewarding, and our successful candidates are rightly proud to have been appointed."



Share trading tackled in university contest

Stock Market Challenge

Budding business leaders from The Radclyffe School showed their skills in trading stocks and shares. They were taking part in Manchester Business School's annual Stock Market Challenge.

Two teams of year 10 GCSE Business Studies students competed against schools and colleges from across Greater Manchester. An impressive fourth place finish was their reward.

Each team began with £1 million of capital to invest. The competition used detailed computer simulation to test the students' talents. They had to decide which stocks to buy and when to sell them. They used various media from newspapers to news bulletins to introduce new information.

Head of Business Studies Mr Maher said, "The challenge tested the teams' skills against real life situations, and gave them an excellent experience. To finish so highly was a very impressive performance."



Students get with the programming

Ada Lovelace Day

Encouraging girls to study and follow careers in Computer Science was the aim of an inspiring visit to Manchester University. An introduction to programming was on offer, using lots of new tools. Five of our Year 9 students toured the Computer Science labs and heard about the experiences of other female students who have chosen to study Computer Science and related subjects.

Manchester University arranged the day in honour of Ada Lovelace, the 19th-century writer and mathematician, and known as 'the world's first computer programmer'.

Champions once again!

NW Inclusive Zone Basketball

Our 2015 winning team travelled to Preston earlier this term to defend their North West Champions title. And defend it they did, winning all their matches and lifting the trophy once again.



Inclusive Zone Basketball uses mixed teams of players on foot and in wheelchairs. The court is divided into zones; players in wheelchairs play in the centre, with running team mates in the outer wing zones.

To win the trophy we defeated Woodchurch High School 8-1, Moor Park 12-0 and Sir Tom Finney High School 9-3. Many congratulations to the team for their excellent performance.

Some quick rules of IZB

In a four a side game, two wheelchair players in the centre zone, one running player on each wing.

There are two hoops, at 10 feet and another lower. 2 points from scoring in the first, 1 point the other. Ball must pass through all 3 zones before shooting; no over zone passing; players can't leave their zone

News from around school

Exciting challenge to finish the term for Year 7 G&T students - visited PGL outdoor adventure centre, Winmarleigh Hall

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Archery proving a popular sport at our successful after school club

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Sharing our success, we have hosted two conferences for other schools on 'Life after Levels', and '3 to 1', how we have become an OUTSTANDING school

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Happy Easter

Meet the British Values team

Promoting 'British Values'

Since November 2014, Schools in the UK are required to promote 'British Values', which have been defined as '...democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith.

In other words, just what The Radclyffe School has always done, through our Five Respects. We ask all our students to at all times behave respectfully, speak respectfully, respect the school environment, have respect for their own learning and for the learning of other students.



The newly created British Values team has taken on the responsibility to ensure that everyone is aware of these values. The team aims to create links between the school and the wider community, and to enable students to debate issues around what could make Britain a better place and what difference it would make.

Students have created online content, including quizzes, blogs and storyboards for their peers to work with. They will also lead assemblies for all year groups, aiming to develop students' self-knowledge, self-esteem and confidence.

Encouraging respect is already a vital part of school life at The Radclyffe School, where students' commitment, drive and dedication combine in what we call 'The Radclyffe Way'. This is embodied in our mission statement 'Working Together for Excellence'. All that we do is about achieving personal excellence through teamwork, being proud of the school and maintaining a partnership between students, staff, parents and the community.

Our Five Respects are the practical things we do in pursuit of excellence. The Radclyffe Way and our Five Respects uphold those fundamental British values. By teaching our students the difference between right and wrong, and our emphasis on self discipline, we have created a culture in which each student can thrive and flourish no matter their background.

One of the first ideas the British Values team has taken on is a project that has had staff and other friends knitting items to be taken to care homes in the Chadderton area.

The colourful creations, known as Twiddlemuffs, are used by people who may be experiencing the first symptoms of dementia.

One symptom can be restless hands, and the Twiddlemuffs have ribbons or buttons attached; having something to hold in their hands can help people to be less anxious.

We would like to thank everyone who has got involved in the knitting - you have created some beautiful eye-catching items which we know will be put to good use.



Team meets the Mayor **Oldham Civic Centre visit**

What could be more British than visiting the Mayor? The British Values team travelled to Oldham Civic Centre where they learned about how Oldham Council works and the role of the Mayor.



The students were welcomed by the borough's current mayor, Coun. Ateeque ur-Rehman. The students discovered how the Mayor acts as an ambassador for Oldham, and represents the borough at a wide variety of events during their year of office.

The team visited the Council Chamber and learnt about the process of voting for decisions made by the authority.

The serious business... of chocolate

Visit to Cadbury World

Our Year 10 Business Studies students learned about how a good employer looks after its employees, with chocolate included as a bonus!

The GCSE students travelled to Cadbury World in Bourneville, Birmingham to learn about the company. They found out about workplace pensions, work life balance and good practice in health and safety.

The young people toured the Cadbury World exhibition gaining an introduction to the history of the famous company. Elsewhere they saw chocolate being packed in the packaging plant and the company's highly skilled chocolatiers hand-crafting in chocolate.



A discussion with Cadbury's staff provided greater detail on how the company operates. Founded by a Quaker family in the 18th Century, the company has always taken an ethical approach to business.

The visit was an important part of the students' coursework assessment, comparing the running of a large company with a small business.

Teacher of Business Studies, Mr Graham said, "The day was a fantastic experience for students to see their textbooks come to life and speak to professionals about their multinational business. Students have returned with a wealth of knowledge to enable them to write a detailed report about Cadbury's and their fair working practices that will contribute 25% to their final GCSE Business Studies grade."

Some Cadbury's chocolate facts

They were the first company to give employees Bank Holidays off.

Like a Crunchie? Cadbury's produces 1200 bars per minute.

All their chocolate has been Fair Trade certified since 2008.

Do you know what Rule 243 says?

Parking on Hunt Lane

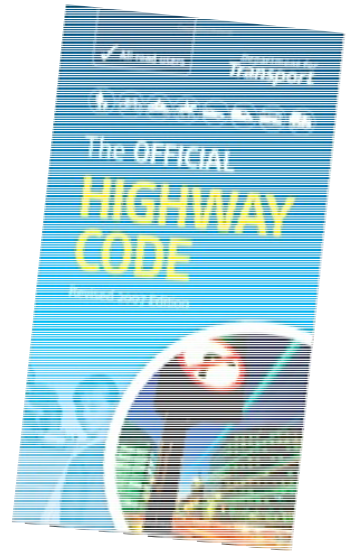
Rule 243 of the Highway Code says:

DO NOT stop or park... 'in front of an entrance to a property'.

We have been contacted by one of our neighbours on Hunt Lane to request, once again that drivers do not obstruct driveways when dropping off or picking up students. Whilst we appreciate there is little available space to stop, this is no excuse for the discourtesy that has been shown.

Our ethos at The Radclyffe School is built around our Five Respects, amongst which is an instruction to 'behave respectfully'. Could we please extend this to how we relate to people living nearby?

Please note that stopping is NOT allowed on the school entrance markings which surround the Student Entrance. Signage on site states that this restriction is in force between 8am and 5pm. If you park here, you are at risk of being issued with a fixed penalty notice by wardens from Oldham Council.



Sculpture Park starts to take shape

Attractive addition at Student Entrance

A striking sculpture is the first to be installed in The Radclyffe School's new sculpture trail. The artwork was created by artist Ruth Moillett working with our Creative Vision team.

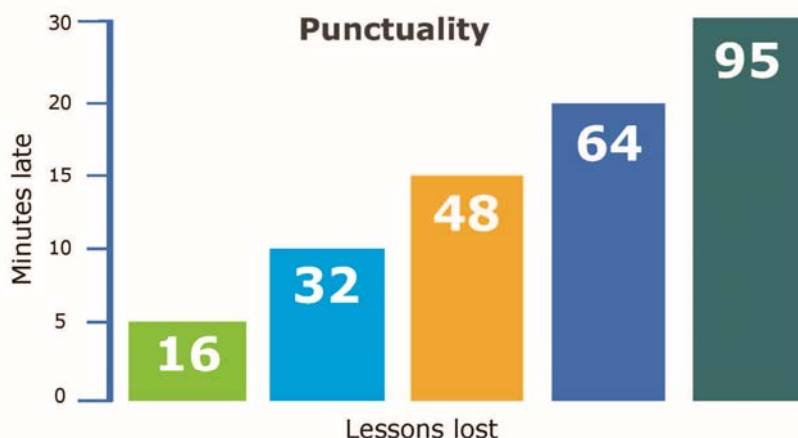
The Sculpture trail will take shape on the grassed bank outside the student entrance. New pieces will be added, with students getting to work with different artists as the exciting project develops.



Every Minute Counts

Being late adds up to a loss of learning.

- School starts at 8:35 am
- Attend your PLG Meeting.
- Visit your locker.
- See your Year Manager.
- See a member of staff if required e.g. Homework
- Ensure your uniform is correct.
- Check you have the correct equipment for the day.
- Socialise with friends.



Every lesson counts.
Being late adds up to a loss of learning.

Students make the news

BBC School Report Day

Twelve enthusiastic students created their own bulletin of stories from around school.

Their 14-minute creation was part of the BBC School Report Day, which builds the skills of young people in English and Media. Students took on the roles of newsreader, reporters, script writers and technical support. They chose three important stories - World Book day, our summer production Little Shop of Horrors, and the work of the British Values team.

They arranged interviews with staff and students, questions were asked and answers obtained. The news bulletin uses a 'green screen technology to create the image of the newsreaders, Faheem and Georgia, in the BBC News Studio. They recorded their script to camera then the whole team took part in editing the final report.

Teacher of English Mr Callanan said, the team got involved in everything, from writing the script, arranging interviews and doing filming and sound recording. They have done an excellent job and are looking forward to seeing the final film on the BBC School Report website."



Spanish language, culture and food celebrated

Trip to La Tasca

Cuban music and Spanish cuisine provided an introduction to the country's culture for some of our Year 8 students. They visited the La Tasca restaurant in Manchester.

The visit also showed off the career opportunities available when studying foreign languages, as Year 8 students decide their KS4 options.



Fantastic celebration of dance and music

SPA Charity Bonanza

An inspiring evening of dancing and singing was enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience, as we once again presented our Charity Bonanza.

Street dance, tap, contemporary and cheerleading were all on show as students from throughout the school showed off their talents. There were solos and duets together with group dances.

The Vocal Group provided several excellent performances, including Michael Jackson's *Billie Jean*, and our 'school anthem' *Proud* by Heather Small.

We were especially pleased to welcome the cheerleaders from Christ Church Primary School to perform during the show. The whole event raised funds for the charity ClicSargent, which support young people and their families who are suffering from cancer. With tickets sold and raffle prizes we have raised a wonderful £675, the highest total we have ever raised at the Charity Bonanza.

Our Student Voice team did a great job serving refreshments and organising the raffle and tombola. So a big thank you to all our students who performed so well at the event, and to parents and friends who came along in such numbers.



On #twitter? Follow the school @theradclyffe

Walking Talking tests

Learning from how teachers answer

A Maths test that involves walking and talking - is this some new type of exercise, mixing PE with numbers?

Well no, but it is a new technique aimed at helping students to learn not just the answers but the process to go through to find those answers. Four groups of Year 11 students have been the first to try this out.

What happens is the teacher completes the paper alongside students. Following what the teacher does shows the students how they are thinking and how they would arrive at the answer.

Three important benefits come from this approach

- Students complete the whole paper, which offers a sense of achievement.
- Students see the working out, learning how they would go about doing the same.
- They make the best use of time, helping with managing time in their exams.

Sports talent with no barriers

Ability Roadshow

We were proud to welcome Oldham Sports Development's Ability Roadshow to school. We hosted the third of a series of events which brought together children with a range of physical and learning abilities to take part in sport.

Pupils from local primary schools got involved in the varied activities, supported by Sports Development staff and Oldham College students. A huge thank you to everyone involved and well done to our own students who took part with enthusiasm.



You can find out more at www.theradclyffeschool.co.uk

Students get active for charity effort

Sport Relief 2016

A team of brave students took on the challenge of the teachers in an exciting Netball match, and the running track was busy with many people running the Sport Relief Mile.

These were the highlights of Sport Relief Day 2016. We are delighted to have got active to support this fantastic charity. With more sponsorship money to be brought in we have raised at least £238.



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