



The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Newsletter

June 2016



Students learn
to become
'Dementia
friends'



Authors inspire tomorrow's writers

Alex Wheatle

Gifted writers from The Radclyffe School learnt more about storytelling from children's author Alex Wheatle.

The event at the Z Arts centre in Manchester was part of the Manchester Children's Book Festival. Alex was reading from his book *Crongton Knights*, set on a fictional housing estate, and then answered students' questions about his writing and what inspires him to create stories.



Following the event, students are taking part in an exciting literature project, leading to a performance at Manchester Central Library as part of the Manchester Literature Festival in October.

Year 8 student Amman Ahmed said he enjoyed finding out about Alex's story, how his life had changed and he had developed. Taiwo Alimi added, "He was very honest and what he said was really well presented; he acted out his story and even taught us a song that he had written."

Asked what lesson they could take from the visit, student Quratulain Channa said, "We learnt that our childhood doesn't totally shape our future, we can take opportunities and change things for the better."

Taiwo added, "It gave us the message that if you have an opportunity, try to grasp it when you are young."

Another author to inspire

Carnegie Medal-winning author Melvin Burgess was at Oldham Library and a group of Year 7 students took the chance to hear what he had to say about storytelling and writing.

Teacher of English Mrs Howell said, "Both visits were a great opportunity for the students to listen to and question successful authors. They were inspiring to listen to, and we are really looking forward to the festival in October.

On #twitter? Follow the school @theradclyffe

Hug in a Mug

Building relationships with our neighbours

Students at The Radclyffe School have sent a 'hug in a mug' to their neighbours around Hunt Lane in Chadderton.

Students in their Citizenship and Values lesson knocked on doors close to the school to give out specially wrapped mugs filled with a variety of teabags. The idea had been created by the school's British Values team.

Citizenship and Values Co-ordinator Miss Parkinson said, "Building links with our neighbours and the local community is an important priority, and the idea of a hug in a mug was well received. One

lady even gave a hug back to the students who knocked on her door."

The British Values team aims to create links between the school and its wider community, and help students to consider issues around making Britain a better place to live.



Sharing the secrets of our success

Life after Levels and 3 to 1

Head teachers from schools around the country have visited us in recent weeks to learn how we achieved our Outstanding Ofsted result. The school organised the conferences to share our 'best practice' in moving so rapidly from 'Requires Improvement' to Outstanding, and how we approach the changes from levels to GCSE grades in the National Curriculum.



The conferences proved popular, with 42 staff from many different schools attending and seeing what we do.

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

Twitterbriefs

School News in fewer than 140 characters

Are you on Twitter? Follow @TheRadclyffe

Best of success to students as #GCSEs begin. Remember to relax, sleep, revise when you need to but remember you are OUTSTANDING

Everyone ready for the twist at the end? Year 9&10 #English students @The_Lowry for performance of #AnInspectorCalls

Find out what's going on in your library. Sign up to the Love Libraries guide at oldham.gov.uk/libraries

Year 10 #History students studied at fascinating Quarry Bank Mill in Cheshire @NationalTrust



Chaim Ferster & artwork

Holocaust survivor visits school

History and Art combined during a special event at The Radclyffe School. 93-year-old Holocaust survivor Chaim Ferster spoke to students and staff of his memories of the Holocaust.

Raised in the Polish town of Sosnowiec, he endured life in a ghetto, before being forced to leave and



sent to several labour camps. He survived a typhus outbreak and the regular brutality of the camp. Ultimately he was sent to the death camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau, and later Buchenwald.

After the camp was liberated by the Allies, Mr Ferster travelled to Britain and settled in Cheetham Hill, Manchester.

Students also worked with artist Caroline Slifkin to create artwork inspired by images created in a Jewish ghetto, Terezin, during the war. Caroline, who works with the Holocaust Educational Trust, shares interactive lessons about the Holocaust .

History teacher Miss Jacob said, "The sessions creating the artwork and hearing Chaim Ferster's story were a powerful experience for students and staff. It reinforced the importance for everyone of remembering what was endured."

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Students push beyond their comfort zone

A record 50 students are volunteering, taking on physical challenges, learning new skills and hiking through the Oldham countryside this term, to achieve their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Now in its fifth year at The Radclyffe School, the award is proving increasingly popular. The award offers young people the chance to learn and develop their talents, contribute to their community and gain new experiences that many have never taken on before.



Last month, the students embarked on their first practice expedition, seventeen miles of walking around Saddleworth. The students camped overnight at the Moorlands campsite at Denshaw, a first experience 'under canvas' for many of them.

Over the past five years, more than 130 students at The Radclyffe School have achieved the Bronze Award. There are four parts to the award; time spent volunteering, undertaking a physical activity, the development of a skill, whether new or existing, and the two-day expedition.

Taking their Bronze award through The Radclyffe School has enabled the students to gain further skills, training for a first aid qualification delivered by St John Ambulance, as well as the Young Navigator Gold award, teaching navigation skills.

Or why not try NCS?

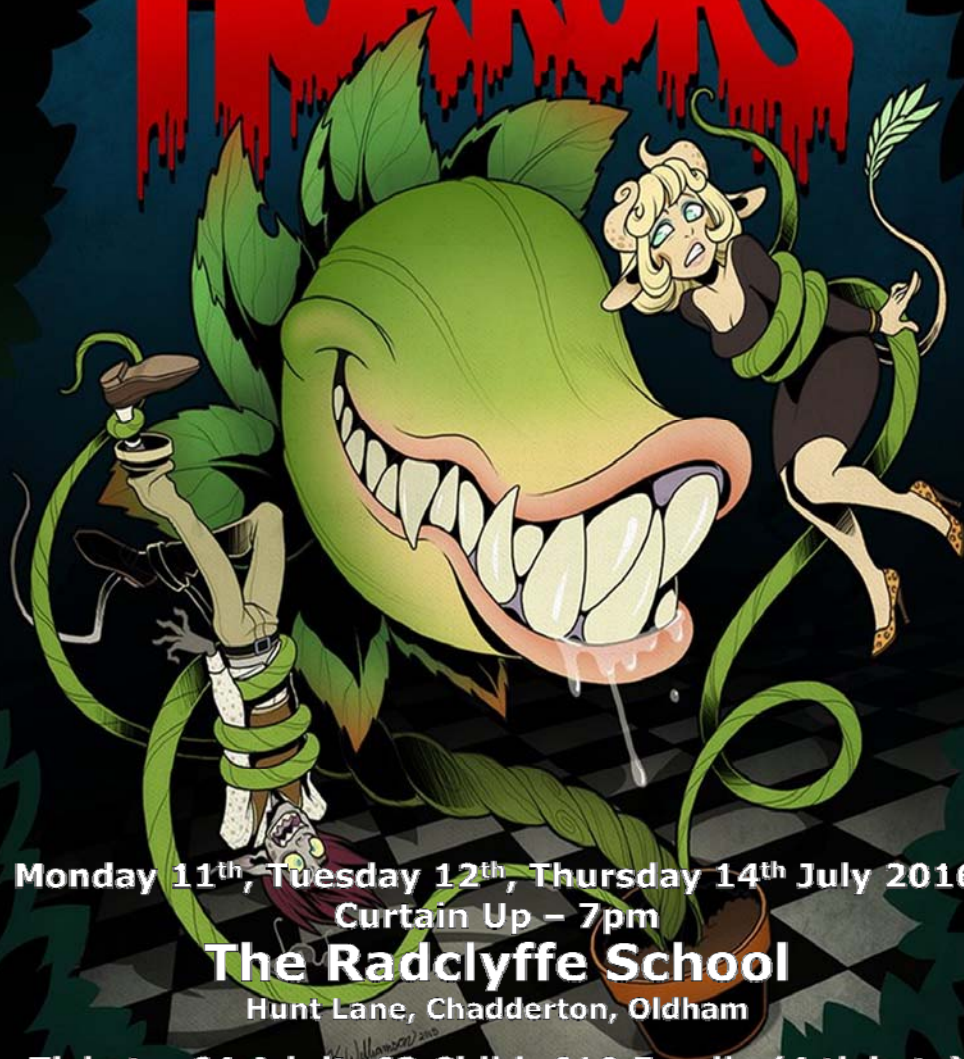
The National Citizens Service is a 2-4 week experience that runs outside of term time, developing confidence and leadership skills.

To find out more visit their website www.ncsyes.co.uk



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LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th, Thursday 14th July 2016
Curtain Up – 7pm

The Radclyffe School

Hunt Lane, Chadderton, Oldham

Tickets: £4 Adult, £3 Child, £10 Family (4 tickets)

UKMT Challenge

Students shine in Maths

Earlier this year some of our talented Maths students completed the UK Mathematics Trust annual intermediate Mathematics Challenge.

The challenge is lively, intriguing multiple choice question paper, designed to stimulate interest in Maths for a large number of students. There are three levels offered, and more than half a million entries from schools throughout the country.

Many congratulations to students achieving the Bronze award - Riyad Rahman, Hena Zaman, Iqra Shahid, Saad Khral and Nayema Kashem. Winning the Silver award were Fahim Ahmed, Sabiha Yasmin and Saima Khan.

And at the very top, taking the Gold award, was Ayesha Akhtar. Well done to you all.

So how good is your Maths?

Test yourself with a selection of the questions from one of this year's papers. Answers back page.

- 1) One third of the animals in Jacob's flock are goats, the rest are sheep. There are 12 more sheep than goats. How many animals are there altogether in Jacob's flock.
A 12 B 24 C 36 D 48 E 60
- 2) What is the value of $2.017 \times 2016 - 10.16 \times 201.7$?
A 2.016 B 2.017 C 20.16 D 2016 E 2017
- 3) The sum of the areas of the squares on the sides of a right-angled isosceles triangle is 72cm^2 . What is the area of the triangle?
A 6cm^2 B 8cm^2 C 9cm^2 D 12cm^2 E 18cm^2

News from around school

Lancashire Cup cricket has given students excellent experience this year.

Year 8s won at St Wilfred's, Blackburn before bowling out at the prestigious Bolton School. Year 10 played Turton School from Bolton.

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Rehearsals are well underway for our summer show Little Shop of Horrors (see opposite).

Tickets on sale as school reopens after half term.

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Welcome back to everyone taking part in @AgeUK Age Exchange project. Elderly residents work with Year 7 students to share life stories and their memories. This is an inspiring initiative that creates lasting friendships.

Closing the gaps in achievement

Project helps students meet their potential

What does it mean to raise aspirations, to help every student reach their potential and be successful? Our 'Closing the Gap' programme aims to do just that, helping them to understand what they are capable of and what they need to do to get there.

Run by our two lead teachers, Mr Delve and Mr Munro, the programme identifies those students who will gain from it, and they are invited to take part. Mr Delve said, "The students experience what it's like to attend university, and explore career paths they might not have considered. It makes the connection between working hard and succeeding in school. We offer students motivation workshops, and get them involved in teamwork tasks both in and out of school."

Students can see the progress they are making, both in one to one meetings with staff, and with the support from parents and carers.

At present, our main focus has been improving how well students do in KS4. Through close support we can see the effect this is having, spot any obstacles that might come up, and help the students find what they need to be the best they can.

The Closing the Gaps programme is constantly developing. In the past it has helped to reduced a gap in achievement between boys and girls. Its strength is in its flexibility to tackle other gaps as we identify them, whether it's to do with disadvantage or ethnic background.



Ajharul Islam, Nathan Phelan and Nayem Hussain are amongst the students who have benefited. They will star in display posters in school to promote the success of 'Closing the Gaps' and inspire other students to reach their potential.

Next Steps

Through 'Closing the Gaps', The Radclyffe School has seen many successes. When we measure these against national averages it is very encouraging that they show healthy improvement. Nevertheless we want to carry on this success.

Looking to the future, we want to extend the numbers of students identified for support. It is a positive challenge for staff to ensure that students of all abilities are catered for and supported.

One new idea gives students a card that lets them take responsibility for their learning, making sure they are present and are putting in the effort they need to achieve highly. Students take the responsibility for asking their teachers when they believe they have shown learning that has enabled them to progress. As a result, students are rewarded for their dedication.

Where have we been?

Visits open new horizons

To raise students' aspirations requires more than sitting in classrooms at school. Through 'Closing the Gaps', students discover opportunities that they might never have thought of otherwise.

University visits to Huddersfield, Salford and elsewhere introduce the promise of higher education study. The breadth of employment that students could take advantage of in the future is also opened up. This has led to inspiring visits to the BBC at Media City, Manchester United, and to the Jaguar Land Rover factory at Halewood.



Learning Leaders take time to develop talent

HOB Y 2016

A special Easter holiday conference enabled students to develop skills in leadership.

Young people from across the north west travelled to Lancaster University for the four day event. The conference was organised by international youth leadership charity HOB Y UK. The students mixed with others from different schools and backgrounds, along with leaders from business and social enterprises.

Amongst the delegates were Year 10 students Chloe Barnett-Benedikti and Mohammed Nabir Ahmed. Chloe said the event helped her to build her confidence. "It gave me the skills to stop letting people get in the way of what I want to achieve. It was great to meet new people."

Nabir added, "Learning how to lead a team, and speak in front of an audience were the best parts of the event. At the end I was part of a team who spoke to the whole group, including parents."



Students at the HOB Y event, Chloe Barnett-Benedikti, Nathan Phelan, Mohammed Ahmed Nabir, Isha Saeed, joined by 'old hands' Sibaanga Muyoka, Mohsin Khan and Harrison Radcliffe.

During the conference the students heard from inspiring speakers in the university's lecture halls, and discussed what they heard in smaller groups. Amongst the speakers were Action Jackson from the Fix Up Team, who has visited school previously to motivate students, and Michael Brennan, founder of the company behind the safeguarding app tootoot.

Asked what they had learned that would help them in the future, Nabir said that in employment or starting a business it gave an awareness of the skills needed.

Chloe added, "It is life changing. I hadn't believed this at first but now I can see it's true. Meeting other people was a bit daunting but from sitting together as Radclyffe Students conversations started and people got to know each other and work together."

Gateway visits

Opening eyes to university possibilities

A group of our Year 7 students enjoyed a 'behind-the-scenes' campus tour at the University of Manchester. Little seen locations such as the Whitworth Hall and the John Rylands library added to the experience of lecture halls and seminar rooms.

The students took part in a 'University Challenge', introducing the broad choice of subjects they could study in higher education. The challenge encouraged learners to work together, testing their existing knowledge and giving them problems to solve.



The Year 7 visit is the final date this year for a programme that gives students in all year groups a practical introduction to life at university. For each different year group the content of the days shows more of what students can expect from university, giving them an experience of the skills they will need both in their chosen study and socially.

Café Mojo

Great value tasty choices

Café Mojo, our student dining area, offers a wide choice of healthy nutritious food and drinks. Our cashless payment system is safe, secure, quick and easy to use.

Please note that the price of the Meal of the Day in Café Mojo will increase in September 2016 from to £2.16 to **£2.21**.

If your child had free school meals at their primary school, make sure they continue to get them at The Radclyffe School. You need to let the Welfare Benefits Team know; call them on 0161 770 6688. If your circumstances haven't changed this will be a quick and simple process. If you don't let them know, your child will not get free school meals at The Radclyffe School.

On target for our best ever attendance

Please help us reach the target

At The Radclyffe School we put great emphasis on ensuring students are always in school when they need to be. For each of the last five years attendance across the whole school has risen steadily, and we are proud to announce that once again we are on target to improve.

We would like to thank you for all that you do as parents and carers to ensure your children are in school promptly and regularly throughout the year.

Our attendance level so far in 2015/16 is at 95.97%. We have set ourselves a target of 96%. With your support we will reach it.

Champions of Oldham!

Year 9 Boys' Football complete undefeated season

A feat not even matched by Leicester City this year, our Year 9 Boys' football team went through the whole season with a 100% record.

Their return was played 7, won 7, Goals for 42, Goals Against 8.



Many congratulations to the team, pictured with Head of PE Mr Mellor: Joe Cooper, Zeeshan Khan, Majed Ali, Ashraf Hussain, Abu Sufian, Rahim Miah, Murshed Alom, Mustofa Miah, Jake Adamson, Abu Siddique, Yaseen Islam, Ajharul Islam, Abu Ubaida, Mohammed Navil and (not pictured) Jordan Thornton.

Basketball students' 'fantastic experience'

IZB National finals, Worcester

Our Inclusive Zone Basketball players travelled, as North West champions, to the national finals held at the University of Worcester.



The day was a great experience for all the team as they competed against strong teams from around the country. Some of the matches saw our team matched against players who have represented England.

We finished in a respectable 11th place. So well done to all the team; Nathan Phelan, Isaac Gallier, Josh Yates, Umor Ali and Monsur Chowdhury (10MCJ).



Date at the Palace celebrates DoE anniversary

Our involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme led to an invitation to Buckingham Palace this term. A garden party attended by Prince Philip and the Earl and Countess of Wessex, was accompanied by glorious May sunshine to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of the award.



Deputy Head Mrs Webb joined DofE co-ordinators Mr Nash and Mr Davies at the event. The team were presented with a special plaque by ocean rower Roz Savage, acknowledging the school's commitment to running the award.

Mrs Webb said, "We were honoured to be invited to Buckingham Palace to receive the commemorative plaque. We encourage our young people to push themselves outside their comfort zones when doing their DofE."

School aiming for 'Dementia friendly' status

Dementia Awareness Week

Dementia is a disease which affects more than 850,000 people in the UK. Though it might not seem a likely issue for schools to be interested in, many of those people will be family members of students and staff at The Radclyffe School.



To mark Dementia Awareness Week, students visited Stoneleigh House Care Home at Springhead to deliver the 'twiddlemuffs' knitted by staff and students. The residents also received dementia-friendly scrap-books of memories that students have put together.

Two members of staff, Mrs Imeson and Miss Parkinson are now Dementia Champions, helping to raise awareness and to deliver training for staff and in future to the local community. Students have been learning more about dementia in their Citizenship and Values lessons, what the disease is and how they can help. All our Year 8 students are now 'Dementia friends'.



One practical way was demonstrated during the week as we held a 'Memory Walk' in school - a sponsored event that raised money for the Alzheimer's Society.

School grounds now boast an Orienteering course

On site course sets strong experience

Orienteering, a sport requiring navigation skills using map and compass, is now a permanent feature of the school, with our own course on site.

The mile long course is designed to teach students the skills they need in a much larger environment. Orienteering is a valuable part of the GCSE PE course, with students travelling to sites at Tandle Hill, Heaton Park in Manchester and in Chadderton Hall Park.

On #twitter? Follow the school @theradclyffe

Student leader elections

Who will make up the new team?

Selection of our new Student Leadership Team is in it's final stages. Nine students put themselves forward to be Head Boy and thirteen for the role of Head Girl.

Each student recorded their video 'pitch' as to why they should win the votes of students and staff. Students across the school have had the authentic election feel, completing ballot papers for their choice; members of staff voted online.

Vote for Head Girl



Vote for Head Boy



Once the election was complete, the numbers of candidates reduced and they faced an interview with Headteacher Mr Hayer. This was their chance to present their case to be appointed to the team.

The roles on our Student Leadership Team are Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boys and Girls, and the Gifted and Talented Ambassador - which may be one post or more.

The new team officially takes up their new roles at Celebration Evening at the end of the summer term, though with Year 11 students out of school sitting their GCSE exams, the new team may be called upon to carry out duties as required. Every success to all the members of the new team.

The Student Leadership Team will be announced when students return to school after the half term holiday.

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

Book of Excellence

Celebration milestone for students' achievements

Later this term the 500th student will enter our Book of Excellence. Since November 2013, each week we have celebrated our students' achievements, attitude and performance.

Chosen from staff nominations, five students, one from each year group are invited to attend a lunch with Headteacher Mr Hayer. The reason for their being chosen is announced and applauded, and photographs taken. The photographs, and details of the nomination are sent home so parents can share in the celebration.

The Book of Excellence itself enjoys pride of place in The Street, at the heart of the school. Each week two new pages are added to the book, with the successful students on display. After the week, these pages are added to the book which stands in the Visitor's Reception. This book builds up an 'archive of distinction' throughout the year.

Many congratulations to all the students who have already entered the Book of Excellence (some on more than one occasion!). For everyone else, what could you do to earn your place in the book?



Hunt Lane, Chadderton, Oldham, OL9 0LS.
Tel: 0161 622 3200. Fax: 0161 633 2183.
www.theradclyffeschool.co.uk

Maths answers
from page 7:
1) C 2) E 3) C

