



The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Newsletter

March 2017



Students' thoughtful response for Holocaust Memorial Day



Students learn business basis of the environment

Eco project strengthens STEM skills

Two teams of students are raising their understanding of environmental issues by taking part in the Go4Set challenge.

Over ten weeks the students are working with engineers John and Kieran from construction firm Wilmott Dixon to help them understand the business of recycling.

The first team, Team Nebula, has chosen to compare the use of paper hand towels in school with air hand dryers. Earlier this term they heard from staff at Dyson about the technology involved in the Dyson Airblade hand dryers.

Their rivals are Infinite Eco, who considered the issue of food waste and composting, while also investigating the potential to grow food in the school grounds.

The competition runs over ten weeks and will lead to the students presenting their work in front of a panel of judges. Together with our two teams, students from Failsworth School are also taking part.

Teacher of science Miss Salim said, "As well as helping students to better understand the STEM subjects in a real world setting, the project can influence their choices of study and career, develop their employability skills and strengthen links with businesses for future learning."



Our students' achievement of 568 A*/A grades in 2016 was the best ever

Club strengthens knowledge and friendship

Science Club

A dedicated group of students are putting their interest in science to great use at our weekly Science Club. Meeting after school each Tuesday, the club allows time to go a little deeper into scientific topics.

The club allows students to express their creativity at the same time as finding out about science. This term they have built their own volcanoes, understanding the science behind eruptions. A mixture of sodium bicarbonate, food dye and vinegar provides a very visual demonstration.



Elsewhere, the club members have made their own fireworks, and bath bombs. They have dissected heart, built and launched rockets and visited a beehive.



Sam Cropper who is in Year 7 said, "I like doing all the science subjects. In the club, I've found all the projects interesting. It's helping me in my science lessons, making things easier to understand."

Year 11 student Sadiqah Hussain added, "We're able to be very creative. It's easier to make friends, because we're all nerds!"

The value of Science Club, together with many other activities we offer lies in enabling students to develop their skills and interests in a relaxed environment. One student is using his involvement in the club as part of his volunteering commitment for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Year 10 student William Hudson has been part of the club since Year 7. He said, "It is fun and the staff are really friendly. The experiments are good- I remember dropping eggs from Level 3 with parachutes. The club has really helped, extending learning on scientific principles and practice with experiments."

Science Club meets each Tuesday, 3.10pm - 4pm in 3B04

In 2016, 171 students achieved at least one A*/A grade at GCSE

Twitterbriefs

School News in fewer than 140 characters

Are you on Twitter? Follow @TheRadclyffe

Series of visits for Y8 gifted & talented this term to @OSFC_Info. Raising aspirations for future academic success

#SaferInternetDay 2017 taught students about staying safe online. Lots of info for parents at ow.ly/XD3H308BhiX

Drama as students visit @The_Lowry to watch and critique a performance of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

A big welcome to Y5/6 pupils competing in the #badminton tournament. Well done to winners Bare Trees Primary



Consider yourself.... casted! Oliver rehearsals underway

Preparations are underway for what promises to be a fantastic summer show this year. Ladies and gentlemen, we present.. Oliver! Written by Lionel Bart and based on the novel Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens, this is a popular choice, with many well known songs and characters.

Students tackled two days of auditions for the show, with so many talented performers to choose from. As a result we have cast two Olivers, Harley Duggan and Bethany Kerrins, as well as two Nancys, Jessica Wells and Lacey Williams.

Congratulations also to the rest of the cast:

Artful Dodger	Holly Wilkinson
Fagin	Milly Boden
Bill Sykes	Mohammed Saleh
Bumble	Ben Garland
Widow Corney	Emily Garland
Mr Sowerberry	Joshua Patterson
Mrs Sowerberry	Darcey Roebuck
Bet	Ebony Williams
Mrs Bedwin	Evie Shepherd
Mr Brownlow	Jacob West
Noah Claypole	Ahmet Andic
Charlotte	Courtney Brown
Dr Grimwig	Leah Cowan
Charles Bates	Joshua Wells
Old Sally	Megan Fayers
Street vendors	Lucy Taylor, Georgia Jones, Sara Sheikh, Jessica Wells and Lacey Williams

And not forgetting the chorus; Emma Hearder, Hadia Arain, Thasrin Islam, Abida Khanum, Tiera Mahmood. Jacob Benedik-Chaplin, Joseph Robinson, Jodie Ryan, Amani Ahmed, Olivia Crozier and Amy Gregory.

The cast are excited about the show and have started rehearsals. Book the dates in your diary now; **Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th July.**

Councillors' letter on parking Please take time to read

Dear Friends

Parking in the vicinity of The Radclyffe School

Following several requests from local residents, the Ward Councillors have been asked to write to parents about parking issues in the vicinity of the school. It is evident that some residents are experiencing difficulties arising from vehicles being parked across driveways (on access protection lines), obstructing the pavement and, occasionally, double parking.

The Oldham Council Parking Enforcement Team and Greater Manchester Police Chadderton Neighbourhood Policing Team will endeavour to address such issues whenever possible. However, we have been asked to provide some information about the nature and extent of the offences which may be pursued and which are outlined below;

The offences enforceable by the Council are;

Parking in front of dropped kerbs (tactile paving)

Parking in front of dropped kerbs (driveways) but please note that the Council can only enforce parking in front of driveways with written permission from the householder.

Parking on 'school keep clear' markings (including zag zags) during advertised hours

Parking on double yellow lines

Anyone parking in contravention of the above will be issued with a fixed penalty charge notice (PCN) for £70 which would be reduced to £35 if paid within 14 days.

Parking on the footway is not an offence for vehicles weighing less than 7.5 tonnes. In order to enforce cars parking on footways, the Council would need to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) such as yellow lines which would apply to all of the highway and not just the footway.

The following criminal offences are enforceable by the Police:

Parking on a footpath (except when using the vehicle crossing to access a property).

Obstructing the highway

If you should need to bring children to school by car, we hope that you will do everything possible to avoid creating any undue problems associated with parking in the vicinity of the school and to park with due consideration to the concerns expressed by residents.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the undersigned if you have any queries regarding the content of this letter or any other matter.



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Tahmeed is new student governor

Year 9 student appointed

My name is Tahmeed Mahmood and I am the newly elected student governor for Year 9. I have worked hard to acquire this role and I am most appreciative of it.

I think I have what it takes to make a difference in this school. I am already a part of the School Council, the British Values Team and I am also a Student Ambassador. I hope to achieve high and leave my mark at The Radclyffe School.



What do Student Governors do?

Important role for students

Tahmeed joins a team of three Student Governors, one each from Years 9, 10 and 11. At present the others are Mohammed Ali in Year 10 and Ariba Usman, Year 11. This allows a student governor to be represented on all of the Student Voice groups in school - including the Eco Team, Charity Team and British Values.

The team is aware of all the current work being done by these groups, and they can help to shape future projects. Once a year they write a report on these activities which is presented to the full Governors Meeting.

Electing student governors is an important part of our democracy programme in school. Each is voted for in Year 9 by that year group. The top two then make a presentation to the other student governors, who have the final decision. The successful candidate serves as a governor for three years, and in Year 11 is part of the Student Leadership Team.

Student Governors were introduced at The Radclyffe School six years ago and provide a vital link between students and the Governing Body responsible for the effective running of the school.

Counting down the weeks of school left before GCSE exams begin

Students' practice makes perfect

PPE Exams

Year 11 students began the year with their 'Pre-Public Exams', a chance to get used to the practical details of sitting their exams, so they know what to expect in summer.

Just like they will in the summer, the students had a 'results day' to find out how they did.

Year 11 Year Manager Miss Hunt said, "There were some students who were elated, there were some who were pleased but knew of areas to improve, and then there were some that were disappointed."



Top tips for exam success

- 1) Have the right attitude - each student should believe in their own ability and that working hard will bring good results.
- 2) Look after yourself - look after yourself (and be looked after!) to stay happy and healthy. Get the right amount of sleep, eat well, take exercise and have some time for fun.
- 3) Time management - manage time well to get done all you need to do.
- 4) Get organised - have the right equipment, the right systems and planning tools to remove stress and make studying more efficient.
- 5) Create habits for success - avoid bad habits (ignore your phone!), develop good ones like reading through class notes at the end of each day.
- 6) Plan revision - make sure you know how you will revise, what you will revise and when you're going to revise it.
- 7) Get the revision done - stick to the plan and stay disciplined to get it done

Are you doing all you can to get the best grades?

Time to show off the best presentation

PROUD display takes shape

Our latest addition to the displays around school is the PROUD gallery on level 3. The display will provide a constantly changing celebration of students who take pride in their work and create pieces that are regularly excellent.



Even the best thought out work can be spoilt by being poorly presented.

At The Radclyffe School we place great emphasis on students presenting work of high quality in all subjects. We have adopted the acronym PROUD to remind everyone of the principles we expect to guide their work and ensure it is always of the highest standard.

P - Pride in my exercise book

R - Respond to targets for improvement

O - Only use a black pen

U - Use a ruler at all times

D - Demonstrate excellent presentation

Teachers set targets for students to show their improvement - they need to show two examples of well presented work, and then consistently show more examples until all their work is of a consistently high standard.

To support improvement, we ask for parents' help. Please take time to look at your children's written work and encourage them to present it in the best way they can.

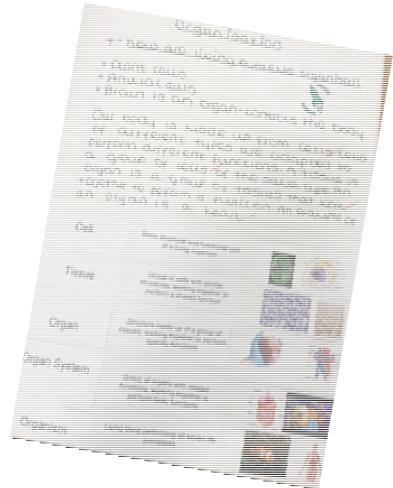


Could your child's work be on display?

Much of the work that is on display has been chosen by teaching staff as examples of students' 'best practice'.

However, the school would like to offer students the opportunity to nominate their own work to be added to the display. If they have a piece of written work, artwork or a practical piece which could be photographed, these too could soon be featured on the PROUD exhibit.

To put forward work please contact Mrs Imeson, Year 10 Year Manager. The display will be updated regularly to celebrate the creativity of as many students as possible.



Can we have your books and bric-a-brac?

Supporting education at link school in Ghana

In the last edition of the newsletter we reported the video call that students made to students at Modern Star, a school in Ghana.

It was an enlightening and humbling experience for students and has given us the chance to support their education.

Working with the charity G-Aid, we are collecting books which could be used by the school. If you have any text books or story books that you no longer need please arrange for them to be brought into school.

Modern Star also runs a small shop which generates funds for students who cannot afford to pay for their accommodation. If you have any small items in good condition which could be sold in the shop, please also let us have them.

These simple actions can make a huge difference to the students in Ghana. They provide our students with a valuable lesson in the importance of being generous and developing links with young people in other countries and cultures.

If you have any books or items you wish to donate, please get them to school by 31st March. Thank you in advance for your support.

A little extra helps! **Student Enrichment**

As each half term draws to a close, the final Wednesday afternoon is a time of creative crafts, exciting experiments, super sports and amazing activity.

All students in Years 7 and 8 choose from a fascinating menu of choices offered by staff throughout the school. Among the events this week have been Guitar for beginners, Computer games and Lego, Photography to Photoshop, Table Tennis and Basketball.

Other students took a more seasonal choice, baking Valentines sweet treats or making papercut Valentines cards.

Putting Maths and English in the LIMELITE **Meetings inspire Oldham's teachers**

A new network for teachers of English, in both primary and secondary schools, met for the first time at The Radclyffe School in January.



LITE (Leaders Improving the Teaching of English) brings together teachers to share innovation and best practice. Speakers at the regular meetings will include leading figures in English teaching from around the country, inspiring teachers and finding methods that help students to master the subject and foster a love of English.

The sessions for English teachers mirrors the LIME network that has run successfully over the past two years for Maths teachers in Oldham. We are delighted at The Radclyffe School to host and co-ordinate both networks , contributing to raising standards and achievement in schools across the borough.

Secret of a super summer **National Citizen Service**



Could you spend some time this summer testing yourself in the great outdoors, taking part in a voluntary project to boost your local community, and at the same time learn new talents and make new friends?

This challenge was set for Year 11 students, to sign up for the activities run by the National Citizen Service for this year.

Remembering how life can go on Holocaust Memorial Day

On Holocaust Memorial Day, the staff and students at The Radclyffe School took the opportunity to recall past suffering, while learning how to ensure such events do not happen in the future.

The school has established a tradition of eye catching and thought provoking displays within school in the days leading up to the annual commemoration. The posters exhibited this year described the experiences of individuals in several countries around the world where incidents of genocide have taken place.

During History lessons, students in Years 7 and 8 considered the theme 'How can life go on?' As well as remembering the events and their causes in countries as diverse as Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and across Europe during World War II, students brought the issue up to date by considering how we can help and support people who have suffered and survived.



Creative Vision project takes poppy inspiration Junior Reporter Zaynah Khan

Holocaust Memorial Day is marked on the 27th January each year. The day remembers victims of the Holocaust when Hitler had millions of Jews killed in Europe. The day reminded me of Remembrance Day, when as a school we remembered soldiers who gave their lives to save others. Poppies are an important symbol of remembrance, worn because they were the only flowers that grew on the muddy battlefields.

We have used the poppy in an art workshop to create a new sculpture for school. The Creative Vision team together with high achieving students in Humanities worked with artist Ruth Moillet to come up with design ideas. We all had very creative ideas, such as a garden of poppies, and another that spelled out the word 'remembrance'.

We had a brilliant day working with the artist to create our designs. Soon we will find out whose design will be in the sculpture park. I hope the sculpture chosen will send out the message of remembrance to everyone.

“We can’t allow underachievement to happen”

Support for Gifted & Talented students

Making sure that all students achieve their potential is a complicated task. While some students are skilled across many subject areas, even students who struggle in some may be high fliers in others.

At The Radclyffe School, the purpose of our gifted & talented programme is to identify students’ talents and allows us to develop them. While not all schools have a gifted & talented programme, and others do it in different ways, we are confident that the support and opportunities that young people enjoy goes a long way to helping them reach their aspirations.



Throughout the year students in all year groups enjoy exciting activities. This begins in Year 7 with a weekend trip to the outdoor activity centre, Winmarleigh Hall. By taking part in demanding team-building and physical tasks, the young people build their own mental toughness.

Much of the work on reaching potential depends on students aspiring to achieve more than might be expected. Visits to Oldham Sixth Form introduce students to the idea of study beyond GCSEs, and we broaden this so academic ambition doesn’t end at 18. Visits for each year group to the University of Manchester’s Gateways programme give valuable insight especially for students who may be the first in their family to have the opportunity to study in higher education.

Our ambition does not stop there. The school arranges visits to both Oxford and Cambridge University aimed at Year 10 students identified as the likely highest achievers.

Every subject area identifies their own Gifted & talented students and supports and challenges them accordingly.



All set for exciting days out

Experience Day

This year's Experience Day will take place on Wednesday 12th July. Students in years 7 to 10 will travel in their year groups to four exciting destinations;



Year 7 Apple Jacks



Year 8 Waddow Hall Activity Centre



Year 9 Blackpool Zoo



Year 10 Flamingoland

As students return from the half term break they will be given a letter setting out what is planned for each visit. Please look out for this letter in the week from 20th February.

Each year while the school bears the majority of the cost, we ask parents for a small contribution towards the expense. During the week from 27th February students will need to bring in consent forms and payment. The final step takes place from 13th March, when students can book the groups they will be in for each visit.

Then it's just four months of looking forward to an amazing experience.

News from around school

Year 8 students will decide this term the subjects they will study at GCSE.

Options Evenings take place on 20th and 21st March.

+++++
We were delighted to hear of the fantastic performance of our former students at A level and progress to Higher education.

More than 90 have gone up from Oldham Sixth Form College to 20 universities across the UK.

+++++
Students interested in a Business or Finance career had a talk from staff at the Co-op Academy of Manchester. The college specialises in business related A levels.

+++++
A group of our Year 11 GAP students are finishing the half term with a fascinating visit to the University of Salford, helping to boost their interest in studying to degree level.

Can you remember the equipment you need?

Maths appeal

Calculator, protractor, ruler, compass, pencil and pens - that is the list of equipment needed by every student in their maths lessons.

The maths department is reminding students of just what they need to bring to school each day. Lack of equipment hinders progress within lessons so it is vital that all students always come prepared.



The department recommends a CASIO scientific calculator. Students also need black, red and blue pens. Thank you for your support in ensuring students are properly prepared for all their lessons.

Q&A with Lib Dem peer Students quiz Lord Storey



An opportunity to discover more about the workings of local councils and local democracy was taken up by two of our Year 9 students.

Ayra Ali and Pardessmal Nasser met the peer, a former leader of Liverpool City Council at the event held at Royton & Crompton School.

Vouchers for sports kit Active Kids

Do you shop at Sainsbury's? The Active Kids vouchers are now available. We will be very happy to receive them and turn them into sports equipment for the school.

Even if Sainsbury's isn't your regular shop, if you have friends or neighbours who shop there and are given the vouchers please ask for them. Last year we were able to 'buy' badminton equipment with the vouchers donated.

A collection box is now available at Student Reception.

On #twitter? Follow the school @theradclyffe

Reading for fun means raising funds for charity

Readathon returns

Students' love of reading can turn into cash for some wonderful good causes this term, as students in Years 7 and 8 take part in the annual Readathon event.

The students received sponsor forms this week and have been invited to get reading. They are welcome to read whatever they like, and maybe to explore books they haven't come across before. A checklist with their sponsorship form means they can tick off as many genres as they wish, from science fiction to sports fiction, descriptions of dystopia to poetry.

Their reading doesn't even have to be of fiction. They are welcome to read newspapers and magazines, comics and graphic novels.

Stuck for what to read? Visit the school library for a huge reading choice, all of which can be borrowed for free. Chadderton library and others across Oldham offer a wealth of reading material which students can enjoy.

Readathon is running in school until March 3rd, with lots of activities to encourage reading in the run up to World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March - look out for a whole week of action around that date!

There will be competitions for classes and individuals and every lunchtime mystery readers will read from their favourite books in the library.

Readathon supports children in hospital by providing books to comfort, distract, reassure and entertain. They arrange storyteller visits, and even children who can't leave their beds can choose from mobile bookcases.

The event also helps some fantastic children's charities, The Roald Dahl Marvellous Children's Charity, CLIC Sargent and Together for Short Lives.



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

Turning the heat up on debate

By Junior Reporter Farzana Rahman

Continuing to improve the oracy and communication skills of students, the English faculty has started a new activity for Year 9 students to join and have an incredible experience: the Debate Club.

Twelve lucky students, including myself, have been accepted into the club. We will be competing at 'PixlUpforDebate' against other schools in the region in April. Each student will be guided and taught the invaluable skills needed to stand out from the crowd. Run by Ms Razaq, we are meeting weekly on Wednesday lunchtime.

As we continue to learn the basics of debating, the school will host its own debate competition, with judges and student audience. The judges will be of great expertise and experience on the topic, judging from a fair, non-biased point of view.

The regional competition will have proposition and opposition teams explore the following:

This house would censor music videos and lyrics with discriminatory content and,

This house would ban international adoption

Hopefully success in regional will lead to finals where a higher level and greater standards will be expected. Only eight schools will advance and presented with a subject, will have 25 minutes to brainstorm effective arguments for their side, with no assistance from teachers.

After the regional heat at Manchester Grammar School in April, schools that go forward will enjoy two debating masterclasses, developing students' minds at a more professional level.

We hope to easily qualify through the regional competition, hopefully returning with the winning trophy and do The Radclyffe School proud.

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