



The Radclyffe School  
"Working Together for Excellence"

# Newsletter

January 2018



Year 11 chefs  
put their  
Hospitality to  
the test.



## Sweet treats lead Children in Need fun

### *Successful fundraising*

Cakes of every description helped students raise money for Children in Need, under the watchful eye of a celebrity guest.

Pudsey was in the building to see all the fun as members of the charity team did their best to encourage their peers to part with pounds. Badges, beanie hats, keyrings and pom-poms were on sale to celebrate the annual fundraising effort. Thank you for helping to raise an awesome £1024.



With such a celebrity in attendance, staff at the school couldn't keep it to ourselves. Pudsey travelled to Yew Tree Community School and St Luke's Primary to visit pupils on Children in Need Day.

Year Manager Mrs Hunt said, "The students of the Charity Team have been amazing salespeople and have helped raise a fantastic total this year. They have been great organisers too and have done an excellent job."

## We're seeking former students to inspire learners

### *Alumni project launched*

Calling all former students of The Radclyffe School. Could you share your experience since leaving with current students? We are building a team of people who can get involved at a number of levels.

The school is partnering with charity Future First to build a thriving alumni community. We know that amongst former students are many talented role models. We would like to celebrate your success and at the same time inspire current students.

Teacher of Design & Technology Mr Munro said, "Getting advice and guidance from people in a wide range of jobs will be hugely valuable to our students. There will also be the chance to mentor our amazing young people, and perhaps to arrange work experience placements."

The project is also a chance to reconnect with former students. As a school we love to hear about all that our former students have done and have achieved since moving on from their school days."

Getting involved is simple. You can sign up at:

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/student/radclyffe>

## Trainee chefs share hospitality

### *GCSE students' creativity in the kitchen*

Hours of painstaking preparation saw Hospitality students prepare mouth-watering meals for a discerning clientele – our members of staff.

Over two days the students prepared 44 three-course meals, together with side dishes, and served their finished creations in a specially created pop-up restaurant.

As part of their final assessment the students had to plan, cook, plate and serve the meals, working against the clock.

The meals were made more special as they were the final ones to be served towards the GCSE qualification in Hospitality. Recent changes mean that the GCSE choice has changed to Food Preparation & Nutrition.

With the event carrying more than half the marks towards their final result, the students were assessed on their cooking skills, but also on teamwork, hygiene and safety and their planning.

Students came up with their ideas for the themes, which they 'pitched' within the team to decide what they would be. The first team devised a masquerade ball theme, with staff creating their own masks. An evening of Mexican cuisine followed, themed to the Mexican festival, 'Dia de los Muertos' (the Day of the Dead).

On each day, preparation and cooking began at 9am, continuing all day for a 4 o'clock call of 'Service!'

On the menu were choices including deep fried brie with cranberry sauce, chicken marinated in honey with ginger and mango salsa, and Oreo cheesecake. The Mexican menu offered spicy prawn salad, jalapeno peppers stuffed with cream cheese, spicy beef burritos and zesty fish cakes with mango salsa.

Teacher of Food and Nutrition Mrs Roby said, "Preparing and serving so many superb meals against the clock is challenging, and the students did so well. The experience that students gain equips them well to consider careers in the catering industry."



## Student entrepreneurs take to high profile selling

### *Young Enterprise*

Take nine Business Studies students, add a project that gives them practical experience of running a business. The students have met weekly through this term creating their company, MAD Creations, and already they are enjoying success.

Through the national Young Enterprise programme, the students gain real experience of the processes of design and manufacturing, marketing and selling. The students have created a variety of handmade gifts. So with Christmas approaching, where better to seek sales than the famous Manchester Christmas Markets.

The team divided into promotion and sales, competing with more than 40 schools from across Greater Manchester. The result was a hectic but in the end successful day. Our stall received the award for

the best trade stand, the result of well packaged products, and great design and set up of the stall.



The student business people are not stopping there. Before the end of term they opened their stall at school, and in February will visit the Trafford Centre for a further day's trading.

The project gives the students practical experience of running a business. They start out with a budget to get their business ideas up and running then work together to run a profitable, successful company.



### **Markets offer language practice too**

The popularity of the Christmas markets offered an interesting learning time too. With stall holders travelling from around Europe, The students took the time to practice their spoken language skills in French, Spanish and German with the traders.

The students were able to make themselves understood and gained congratulations from the continental visitors.

## Voices in unison

### *Students' Gospel performance*

Students' voices from four schools came together for a wonderful performance of Gospel music.

To prepare for the event, the singers worked with Tyndale and Kadria Thomas, from Voice Assembly, to learn the techniques of Gospel, as well as four songs for performance. A full day workshop put all the students through their paces together with students from Co-op Academy Failsworth.



For the concert itself, Oldham-based Soul Inspiration Gospel Choir and the Pennine Care NHS Trust Choir joined the students alongside singers from Crompton House and Newman College.

Amongst the musical entertainment on offer were Labi Siffre's *Something Inside So Strong*, Michael Jackson's *Can You Feel It?*, Tyndale Thomas's own composition *Top of the World*, and *Full of Wonder* by Naughty Boy.

Head of Music Mr Corrigan said, "It was a fantastic experience to work with such talented singers and with the other schools. The students learned so much from the workshop, making them better singers and having a really enjoyable time."

Look out for consent letters coming home in early February for Experience Day. Four fantastic trips will give students an amazing day out, so please ensure you book and pay early.

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Parents, if you need to talk to your children about the risks of using live streaming apps, a handy guide is available on our website. Look in school policies/ child protection policy.

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The National Citizen Service offers young people aged 15-17 an experience that builds confidence, self belief and new skills. We are proud of our students who have taken this challenge and are delighted to discover we are the leading school in Greater Manchester for the number of our students getting involved.

## Peer mentors share smiles

### *Anti bullying week*

Taking simple steps to encourage kindness was our focus as we celebrated the national Anti-Bullying Week in November.

The Peer Mentors team took the lead to ensure that students and staff discovered how they could help. Everyone was asked to think how they could be kind to each other at all times. At the Year 7 assembly the students spoke about how important it was not to tolerate bullying and to ensure that it is reported and dealt with.

Learning Mentor Miss Cavanagh said, "The simple act of sharing a smile can help people feel more positive around school, so that's just what the Peer mentors did. Whether it was a real smile or one of 150 'smile cards' that circulated around school this made a real difference."

Students recognised that it's important to acknowledge all the good things that are done for us. So Café Mojo saw the creation of a Thank You wall. Lots of balloons each contained a message of thanks to someone around the school. Continuing the kindness theme, there were lots of random acts of kindness carried out throughout school.

## Awareness tackles hate

### *Weekly staff training*

To build on the anti-bullying theme, the staff training meeting during the week set about raising awareness of bullying suffered by lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender students.

The session was led by trainer and headteacher Rob Partington and emphasised how important it is to challenge the use of language that sets out to hurt.

The early finish for students each Wednesday afternoon enables a broad range of training for both teaching and support staff, carried out throughout the year.



## ***School falls silent for act of Remembrance***

### ***Lessons recall life in WW1 trenches***

Students at The Radclyffe School marked two minutes' silence on Friday (10<sup>th</sup> November) as part of a collective act of remembrance.

Each year students create a display, which provides a focus to help everyone to remember. Large paper poppies and images of remembrance form the display this year. One poignant exhibit is a series of posters all around the school where the surnames of current members of staff are matched with surnames on the thousands of graves managed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The hymn *Abide With Me* called staff and students to the act of remembrance, which included the two minute's silence, the sounding of the Last Post and Sunset, and a reading of the poem *In Flanders Fields* written in 1915 by Canadian military doctor John McCrae.

Alongside the remembrance activity, Year 8 History students took a practical lesson in the experiences of the First World War. Former teacher Jason King shared his fascinating collection of historical artefacts with students, presenting the story of a typical soldier on the Western Front in 1914.

Head of Humanities Mrs Sykes said, "The remembrance event helps students to appreciate how important it is to learn about and remember what people went through in war. It is about more than studying History, giving everyone a time to remember the sacrifice and suffering people have gone through to protect freedom."



## Qualification giving students the (PiXL) edge

### *Tasks are building key skills*

Leadership, organization, resilience, initiative and communication - these five attributes will be growing stronger amongst year 7 and 8 students thanks to an exciting project, running throughout the year.

It is called PixL Edge and is a qualification that students earn by taking part in accredited tasks and activities both in and out of school.

These can be either in lessons or in extra curricular activities. For each of the attributes students complete two activities. Our Year 7 and 8 students are working towards the Apprentice level.

Students have been creative in finding the tasks they want to carry out. Amongst those completed already have been leading warm up sessions in PE lessons, creating artwork which raised funds for the Manchester Arena victims, captaining a team in a Maths quiz, learning to play chess and creating a booklet about safety to help Year 6 pupils through transition.



Some of the tasks students are able to complete during their Citizenship & Values lessons, and others in their own time. The tasks are proving a great way to encourage students to be active and engaged in their local community.

Each student's achievements are recorded online, checked by teachers or by external leaders.

What can students expect to gain from earning the qualification? For students who successfully complete all their tasks, they will discover new skills and experiences. It will also prove useful when the time comes to apply for college, for university or for employment, students can show that they are more than just their academic grades.



## Music, Drama, Dance combine to entertain

### SPA Celebration Evening

An extravaganza of entertainment combined music, drama and dance for an end of term treat. The audience enjoyed performances from the Vocal Group, the Chamber Choir, the Radclefs acapella group and the school's Wind Band as varied as *La Bamba*, *The Circle of Life* and *Walking in the Air*, and traditional carol *Joy to the World*. Courtesy of the KS3 Drama Group, the audience was also treated to drama from the musical *Matilda*.





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# Every Minute Counts

Being late adds up to lost learning.

## 8:35am get ready to learn...

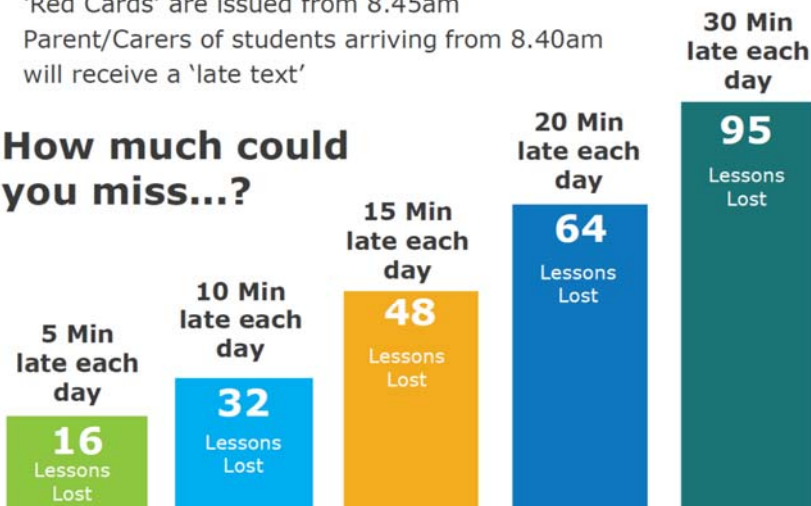
- Attend your PEP4U Meeting
- Visit your locker
- See your Teacher or Year Manager
- Check your uniform
- Check your equipment
- Socialise with your friends
- Arrive to your lesson on time!



## Punctuality Procedures...

- Doors Lock at 8.35am
- Signing in will begin at 8.40am
- 'Red Cards' are issued from 8.45am
- Parent/Carers of students arriving from 8.40am will receive a 'late text'

## How much could you miss...?



Every Lesson Counts!



## A taste of honey

### Lessons in beekeeping has sweet outcome

The bees of the Millbrow apiary have taught students important lessons about caring for these important insects. For the group who took part it also led to a presentation and a gift of the honey they helped to produce.

The apiary, which consists of three hives in the grounds of St Mathew's church, Chadderton has enjoyed a bumper crop this year, producing 131 pounds of honey, up from 18 the year before. During their student enrichment sessions earlier this year, the group visited the hives to see how they operate.



Aribah Khan, Year 9 said, "I enjoyed seeing how much honey the bees were making. We learned how they are looked after and how they increase."

Mahmood Jamil added, "It was interesting to take apart the hive and see how it's built. We also saw the queen."

Two of our members of staff, Mrs Barker and Mrs Grogan help out at the apiary.

Presenting certificates to the students Mrs Barker said "We were very impressed with how sensible all of the students were as they learned about looking after the bees."

## New skills and experiences

### Students thrive in ELAT activities

Caring for the bees was just one activity amongst many that students enjoy at the end of each half term. The final Wednesday ELAT sessions enable students to develop talents they know they have, or to try something new.

All Year 7 and 8 students take part, with the activities optional for Year 9. Amongst the choices this term have been origami, Christmas decoration making in Design & Technology, trampolining, badminton and baking mince pies. Some students also spent the session learning how to care for guinea pigs. All the activities link to the LORIC skills that students gain through their PixL Edge qualification (see page 8).

## Twitterbriefs

School News in fewer than **280** characters

Longer stories now twitter allows more characters. If you use Twitter please follow the school @theradclyffe

Always a pleasure to welcome our author in residence @markwrightwriter to work with Year 9 Media Studies students.

Headteacher Mr Hayer turned Café Mojo server with other members of SLMT to offer Christmas lunch to staff and students.

Year 11 Modern Foreign Language students have been assessed on their spoken language skills. Bonne chance et tous les succes!

Visits to University of Manchester give students a taste of uni life, courses they could study and skills they need to succeed.

## Keeping students safe on local roads

### *Parking problems persist*

At this time of year, when many journeys to and from school are made in poor light and poor weather, students' safety on the roads around school is of great importance. Road Safety Week in November was an opportunity to remind drivers of the need to park with consideration for our neighbours, and to watch their speed on Hunt Lane.

Children need to be aware of how to safely cross busy roads and it is a message that we repeat at school. Broadway and Middleton Road have a heavy flow of often fast-moving traffic and we want all our students to travel to and from school safely. Wearing bright or reflective clothing can help drivers to see people crossing the road and so avoid accidents.

Students must also take care when crossing roads to ensure they can see traffic approaching. They should avoid crossing between parked cars, but this becomes difficult where Hunt Lane becomes busy at the beginning and end of the day. Wherever possible please consider allowing your children to walk a short distance to school to reduce congestion around the school gate.

## Thank you for two trucks of toys!

### *#Mission Christmas*

Hundreds of gifts will be making their way to needy children across Greater Manchester thanks to your generosity. We received so many in the crate at Visitors' Reception that we filled it twice!

The Mission Christmas appeal is organised with radio station Key103. We were delighted to be a collection point for the local community to drop off their donations of new toys. They will make it a happier Christmas for many of the 1 in 4 young people in poverty in the region. Thank you for your amazing response.

## Snow and Computing in skills mix

A special workshop mixing snow and Computer Science gave students from The Radclyffe School an introduction to programming.

The all-girl group travelled to indoor ski centre Chill Factor close to the Trafford Centre, using the visit to brush up their skills with the Raspberry Pi and micro bit mini-computers.



The students used the Python coding language to programme robots to perform a dance routine.

The Government-backed event was a further step to encourage girls to study Computer Science at A-level and beyond.

Teacher of Computer Science Miss Thomas said, "There are amazing opportunities in many

areas of Computer Science, and girls should be taking advantage of them. This visit was a great way to encourage them into the field, showing them just what they can achieve."

## Dramatic performances are students' own work

### *Powerful plays tackle issues of concern*

GCSE Drama students wrote and performed their own short plays. Three powerful pieces tackled issues in society that were the students' choice.

Looking at pressure to conform, the loss of individuality and difference, and stigma around mental health, the plays were performed in front of an external examiner.





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# MARY POPPINS



**Auditions are 15th & 16th January 2018**

See a member of Music and Drama staff  
For your audition pack



## **Claim for free school meals - it's your right**

### ***...and help the school to access extra funds***

Is your child eligible for free school meals? Please read on to see how claiming free meals benefits your child and gains an extra £935 funding for school.

The rising cost of living means everyone could use a little bit of help. If you are on low income and/or benefits then you may be able to claim free school meals for your child. The new Universal Credit system means more people are eligible for free school meals so it's worth checking to see if you qualify.

### ***This will not only help you, it will help the school too.***

Schools are given an extra £935 funding for every child who gets free school meals. We use this money to enrich your child's learning experience and offer learning opportunities they may not otherwise benefit from.

As a further bonus, evidence suggests that children who eat a healthy meal during the day achieve and perform better at school. Café Mojo offers a balanced and nutritious menu with the right ingredients to help your child succeed, and because we are cashless there is no difference between paid and free meal students.

We know that some parents may choose not to take up their entitlement to a free school meal. Please apply anyway as the school will still receive funding even if you don't wish to access a free daily meal.



### **How to apply**

Claiming your child's right to a free school meal is simple – call Oldham Council on 0161 770 6688 or download an application form from [www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200231/grants\\_and\\_allowances/161/school\\_meals](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200231/grants_and_allowances/161/school_meals) and return to Customer Services, Civic Centre, PO Box 4, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UH or return to the school and we'll forward your form to the Council for you.

However, please don't delay. Applications must be processed by mid-January in order for the school to receive the extra funding.

## Volleyball Champions

### *Teams going forward to represent the borough*

Congratulations to the Year 9 Boys' Volleyball team who have been crowned Oldham champions. Their success in a round-robin tournament against Oldham Hulme and Royton & Crompton means they will go forward to represent the borough of Oldham in the Greater Manchester tournament during the Spring term.



The school offers students the chance to compete in a wide choice of sports and amongst those that our teams have represented the borough at are Goalball and IZB Basketball.

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