

February 2017

“Everyone will be given the chance to shine brightly”

The Headteacher's Letter

Last week our Eatz Assembly focused on factors affecting mental health and how we can support each other and challenge some prejudices surrounding it. This has been followed up in form time learn to coincide with Children's Mental Health Week. The message is simply to **'spread a little kindness'**.

Pressures on young people are very real and come in many forms. In school we are very clear that a supportive environment where respect and kindness are the norm enables each child to flourish. Our core values are central in providing this environment and it is fantastic to see pupils support and care for each other. Sometimes things go wrong either inside or outside of school and we will always do our best to support both pupils and the wider family.

As we approach exam time it is important that preparation is thorough and timely. Half term is a good time to make sure revision timetables are drawn up and a clear plan for revision is talked through at home. This will reduce some of the anxiety that occurs when time becomes pressurised closer to the exam. A balanced approach of hard work and relaxation brings about the best results. Parents and carers are essential in the support you give your children whilst preparing for exams. Please also keep an eye on levels of stress and anxiety. There will be some but if you become worried that things are getting out of hand then please let us know at school.

Steve Lewis

Year 9 Girls' Handball Team Shine Brightly

Following on from their success at the Rushcliffe Sports Awards back in November, the Year 9 girls' handball team were nominated and shortlisted for the



Junior Team of the Year category at the Nottinghamshire Sports Awards held at the Nottingham Conference Centre on February 1st. It was a strong category with each of the five shortlisted finalists having won at least a National cup within their sport. The girls unfortunately did not win but it was a fantastic evening nevertheless, with Nottinghamshire showcasing its fantastic sporting achievements from primary school age right through to Olympians and Para-Olympians. A huge congratulations to the girls and we are hoping to continue the journey to this year's national finals by competing at the U15 County finals at the end of the month.

February - March Diary Dates 2017

21st February
Back To School

23rd February
Y12 Progress
Evening

6th - 10th March
Careers Week

8th - 9th March
Chicago

21st March
Meet The SEN Team
Evening

21st - 22nd March
Springboard

20th - 24th March
Y12 Borth Trip

27th March
Y10 Progress
Evening

February Half Term

13th - 17th February

Reopens 21st February



Year 10 Visit The Design Museum



A group of Year 10 Product Design students recently went to London to visit the new Design Museum. This included a hands on materials workshop focused on Materials: Smart and Sustainable and a self-guided tour of the museums exhibition space. We visited NEW OLD a pop-up exhibition that explores how design can help people lead fuller, healthier and more rewarding lives into old age. The exhibition challenged the notion of aging and presented examples from robotic clothing to driverless cars and showed some of the ways designers are trying to meet the challenge of a rapidly ageing society. Designers in Residence had four designers work in the design studio within the design museum and present installations of their work. The designer Alex Bizet explored the role of hair in shaping identity. The students feedback that they really enjoyed the interactive workshop.



The history of the underground and the old and redesigned maps, the development from old electronics to new, and understandably the hoodie made from human hair would be the most memorable exhibits.

SHOWING
AT RUSHCLIFFE SCHOOL
CONCERT HALL

IT WAS A
MURDER
BUT NOT A CRIME



FUNDRAISING
FOR RUSHCLIFFE
SCHOOL

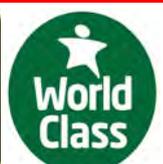
Tickets £5 8th March @7pm
Concessions £3 9th March @7pm

Reserve tickets now!

0115 9744050 - admin.office@rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk

A Wicked Trip To London! By Laura Smith 12C

Rushcliffe School's first ever musical trip was definitely one that will not be forgotten. With Wicked's incredible props and scenery there is no doubt it was a show stopper. We started our day taking a coach full of excited students down to the capital. After driving through central London, spotting a few of the landmarks, we were dropped at Pineapple Studios. Here we had a workshop particularly focusing on the song 'For Good' where we analysed in detail the lyrics of the song, understand their true meaning and then going on to perform the song. After our exciting workshop we were finally able to watch the show. From start to finish we were dazzled with amazing set and green costumes. The standard of performing was truly magnificent. A highlight of the show would have been the well know song 'Defying Gravity' that was a breath-taking number to watch. The show was a great experience for everyone as it allowed them to see the high standards of the West End and allowed them to enjoy the West End experience. After a long day we headed home with a lot of green goodies from the merchandise shop. Overall a fantastic day - we can't wait for another trip!



Life after Rushcliffe 6th Form

In addition to their studies, Year 13 students have been busy planning what to do with the next part of their lives when they finish here in just 5 months' time! For many this has meant applying to Universities through UCAS and we are pleased to announce that this process has again been successful this year and that all applications were completed in line with the UCAS deadline of January 15th. Students, subject teachers and form tutors have all worked incredibly hard in ensuring that 129 students have made strong applications to study at Universities across Britain. Of those, there were 23 applicants to competitive courses – Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Science and Oxbridge; 10 deferred entries - with exciting gap years being planned and 9 students who studied at Rushcliffe in previous years. Offers are coming in from universities and we are delighted that 3 students have been offered places to study at Oxford and Cambridge – final grades permitting! The next part of the process entails students deciding which of the university offers they are going to accept: they will need to select a first choice and an 'insurance' offer. This is when the process gets really exciting as students will know where they may well be living and studying later on this year and the grades they require to make it happen. A number of other students are also pursuing alternative pathways including applying directly for jobs and taking up apprenticeships.

The 6th form team wish all our Year 13 students the very best, whichever path they follow, and thank all students for completing their UCAS applications in a timely and efficient manner. We know how hard they are working to achieve their goals.

Mr Roberts - Head of Year 13

Year 12 Experience University Life

On the 31st January the whole of Year 12 went to visit either Loughborough University or Nottingham Trent University as one of their Bright Days. The students were given guided tours of the respective university they visited as well as getting ample opportunities to talk to current university students to get a real insight into university life; the many trials and tribulations that they face! Coupled with this the students were given insightful briefings on what universities offer as well as the application process that our students will be undertaking in the near future.

The students were a value to the school as they were asking shrewd and intuitive questions and really trying to better their understanding of what to do when they finish at Rushcliffe Sixth Form. They approached the day with maturity and responsibility, and I hope that they took on board a lot of the advice they were given and it has granted them some more clarity as to what the future holds for them.

Mr Lakin - Head of Year 12



Join Our Book Club!

Book Club meets every Wednesday Lunchtime in the LRC. We welcome keen readers in years 7, 8 and 9. Come along to make new friends and join in with quizzes, games, book awards and much more.

We are currently reading the 6 books on the 2017 'Brilliant Book Award' (BBA) shortlist and looking forward to meeting some of the shortlisted authors: On Wed 22nd Feb some students will visit Chilwell School to meet Mark Huckerby and Mark Ostler, co-authors of *Defender of the Realm* and on Wed 8th March Rushcliffe School will host a visit from Christopher Edge author of *The Many Worlds of Albie Bright*.

Students in participating schools will be able to vote for their favourite book and the winner will be announced on 20th March 2017.

For more information about the BBA go to <https://bba.inspireculture.org.uk>.





Rushcliffe School

Giving everyone the chance to shine brightly



Drama and Music A Level Taster Evening

21st February 2017

6pm-8pm

- Practical workshops
- Entry requirements
- Course information
- Exciting new facilities
- Meet the staff
- 6th form life

Book a place now!

GCSE Drama/Music not required



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@rushcliffeMusic

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Year 11 Football Team Win Quarter-Finals!



The Year 11 football team made the long trip down to Maidstone to take on Oakwood Park Grammar School in the quarter-finals of the English Schools Under 16 Premier League Open Schools Cup. We knew that we would face a tough time against a team that won the competition when they were in Year 9 and were also undefeated in a number of Cup competitions in the south of England this season.

After a long minibus journey, we understandably made a slow start and Oakwood had a couple of early chances but could not take them. As the first half moved on, the boys began to gain more possession and started to create chances of their own. However, Oakwood were a well organised team and it was becoming a battle in midfield. The first goal was always going to be important and near the end of the first half, we were awarded a free kick on the right. Lucas Sumner swung the ball in high and it eluded most of the players in the penalty box before heading straight toward Oakwood's keeper. Under pressure from a number of players, he missed the ball and it dropped into goal giving the visitors a welcome lead.

At the beginning of the second half, we came into our own and started to dominate proceedings with some strong midfield play. Another set piece soon brought us a second goal as Sumner delivered from a corner and Riley Harbottle rose highest to head home at the far post. This was soon followed by a third as Arvin Apiah beat two defenders before cutting in from the right and hitting the ball into the top left hand corner.

Oakwood did not give up without a fight and pressed strongly as the game neared its end but the team's organisation was crucial and they well deserved their victory which set up a home semi-final against Ravens Wood School (Bromley) to be played on Thursday February 9th. Final score 0-3. **Mr Shaw - Teacher of PE**



University of Nottingham Microscope Workshop



The University of Nottingham School outreach ran a workshop for 14 of the Year 10 Triple scientists. The workshop involved the building of digital optical microscopes using simple lenses and Raspberry Pi's which they then programmed and used to take images and video of biological samples. The students produced some amazing images of a wide range of specimens including insects, sand and diffusing coffee granules. They even got to view a potentially award winning video produced by one of the postgraduate students from the university.



Careers Highlights

As the exam season approaches, students in Years 11 and 13 should have finalised their plans for next year. Students who are thinking of apprenticeships must inform Miss Tomlinson as there will be a specialist workshop led by ASK (Apprenticeships Skills and Knowledge) on Wednesday 1st March at 1.15pm.

A group of Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit East Midlands Airport to find out the wide range of careers that are available. We had a talk about the different careers and an interesting tour of some of the areas of the airport that are not subject to high security checks.

Year 9 are now entering a key phase in their education; the options process. The Bright Day on 31st January focused on ensuring students get all the information that they require to make good choices. The Options Evening on 2nd February is an opportunity to talk to subject staff and Rhonda Smith the Careers Adviser about choices and future careers pathways. Please look on Moodle too for additional careers information.

The Ambition Nottingham Project

Giving students a taste of university life. Raising their aspirations and educating them about their choices for their futures.

Already this year some of our Year 7, 9, 10 and 11 students have spent a day "on campus" meeting students and staff, touring the campus and learning about life as a University student. Coming up, our Year 8 cohort will visit the Science Campus at Sutton Bonington, our Year 9 cohort will be invited to a day at Cambridge University and Revision Sessions led by Nottingham Graduates will take place in school.

Careers Support

Please keep up-to-date with any of the latest Careers news that comes in or job/apprenticeship opportunities that are sent in to school by checking our Rushcliffe School Careers Facebook page. This is particularly relevant to Year 11 and Year 13 students as employers often send in opportunities after students have gone on study leave. Apprenticeships are becoming a more attractive option for many students at 16+ and also at 18+. There are more positions becoming available and at 18+ an apprenticeship can lead to a degree qualification without incurring the costs of going to university. Rhonda Smith our Careers Adviser is working with Year 11 students.

Please email rosmith@rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk to contact Rhonda directly.

Operation Christmas Child

In 2016 Operation Christmas Child delivered 882,647 shoebox gifts to 17 countries in Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle



East. Students in all years contributed to this creating 90 shoeboxes full of gifts for children less fortunate than themselves. A great effort by all. Thank you to everyone involved.



World Book Day

To encourage reading a Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the LRC from Tues 7 March - Mon 13 March 2017. All support is gratefully received as the commission earned from books sold will gain free books for the LRC. All students will be given a £1 World Book Day voucher which can be spent either at the Book Fair or in any bookshop.

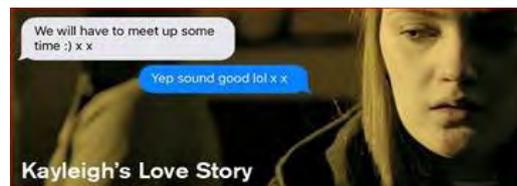
The Gardening Club

We have recently received a certificate and letter from the RHS as our gardening club have achieved Level One in the RHS School Gardening Awards.

We are one of the first schools to gain this certificate for this new School Gardens Campaign. A prize and a 'Things to do each Month' Calendar will be sent to us as well.

The Dangers of Speaking to People Online

During the last Inset Day I shared information about CSE (child sexual exploitation) and discussed the local case of Kayleigh Hayward with staff members.



Leicestershire Police have now commissioned a short 5 minute film entitled 'Kayleigh's Love Story'. The film highlights just how quick and easy it can be for children to be groomed online without them, or those around them, knowing it is happening. Its purpose is to protect children now and in the future and to stop another family losing a child in this way.

I wanted to share the link with parents, as many have asked for more information on this particular subject. I am now also starting to use this short film with some students in year 9 upwards where there is evidence that CSE might be taking place, or at risk of taking place.

The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsbYHI-rZOE>.

It's vital that young people understand the importance of staying safe online and that parents can spot the signs that may indicate their child is being groomed. There is a fact sheet for parents that contains information about online grooming and the tell-tale signs and behaviors, which can be accessed via the above link.

Please do get in touch if you have any concerns for your child or need support.

Helen Carnell - Pupil Well-Being Coordinator

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Visit Us On The Web

www.rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk

Follow Us

<https://twitter.com/RushcliffeSCH>

Extra-Curricular Timetable

Scan the QR code link to the extra-curricular timetable on our website, listing all the clubs and activities available at lunch-time and after-school.



Or visit

www.rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk
and you will find it on the
Parents page.

Free School Minibus to Ruddington

Who's it for? Pupils staying after school for extra-curricular activities/intervention

When? Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 4.20pm

Where does it stop? Junction at Rufford Road and Ashworth Avenue, The Green, Wilford Road Dental Practice.

As places are limited please book a seat at the PSU.

