



March 2017

“Everyone will be given the chance to shine brightly”

The Head Teacher's Letter

Being a head teacher is a varied and extremely rewarding job. Every day is different but there are definitely cycles of activity. At this time of year we are working through the constraints that the very real decreases in school funding places on Rushcliffe.

Over the past years Rushcliffe has expanded its pupil numbers to meet the needs of our community but does not get funding for those children until the following academic year. At the same time we have reduced teaching staff by the equivalent of six full time teachers. We have seen costs rise due to unfunded changes in employee national insurance contributions, pensions and pay increases. Per pupil funding continues to fall. The stock answer that comes from government when funding is challenged is that more is spent on schools than ever before. This is never followed by the clear fact that there are more children in schools than ever before and the overall budget is being used to fund such ideological fancies as the reintroduction of grammar schools. The reality is that the budget of Rushcliffe School has been significantly squeezed and there are even more severe funding cuts coming our way under the proposed national funding formula.

Our core purpose is to enable all our children to shine brightly. It drives everything we do. It is naive to think that the chronic reduction in resource will not have an effect on the experience of our children in the classroom. It doesn't matter how you cut a cake. If it is not big enough some will go hungry. Schools have an essential and unique role in society. Our children not only progress academically but also get the opportunities to develop holistically as can be highlighted by our Year 8 pupils' visit to Epperstone Court where they talked with knowledge, respect and care to the residents. Likewise our fantastic production of Chicago which showcased the amazing talents of our musicians, actors, singers and dancers. It is important that we cherish all aspects of a child's educational experience and make sure we don't descend into a bargain basement education system. I ask for your support in championing an adequately funded state education system that provides a quality education for all. **Steve Lewis**

April - May Diary Dates 2017

18 April
Back To School

19 April
Y7 Progress Evening (A-E)

27 April
Y9 Vaccinations

1 May
Bank Holiday

3 May
Y7 Progress Evening
(F-J)

9 May
Meet The SEND Team
Evening

17 May
Y8 Progress Evening
(A-D)

24 May
Y8 Progress Evening
(E-I)

26 May
Break up for Half Term



Rushcliffe Action Aid Launches

As part of the school initiative to get young people involved in making a difference to their school and local community, we have launched Rushcliffe Action Aid. We would like students to log what they already do both in and out of school and seek further opportunities for students to do more.



On Friday 24th February, Year 8 pupils attended a technology support session at Epperstone Court retirement home. The aim of the workshop was to support the residents to use their IT devices effectively. Students supported residents to make better use of phones, iPads and computers. The residents were delighted and really grateful. We also sold tickets for the school play during the visit and 12 of the residents came and had a wonderful evening watching Chicago. Year 8 and Year 9 will be revisiting the home for a games afternoon.

If you have any contacts in the community who you think would benefit from our students helping with technology workshops or social activities, please can you get in touch with Mrs Desai .

May Half Term

29th May - 2nd June

Reopens 5th June



Chicago Comes To Rushcliffe!

Once again the Arts department didn't fail to dazzle their audiences on the 8th/9th March. As one of the longest-running musicals on both Broadway and in the West End the cast had a big reputation to live up to and they sure did. As the curtain went up the all singing all dancing cast took to the stage for two very memorable shows. It was clear the amount of hard work that had gone into the show, the chorus with their fabulous dance routines and strong singing were an excellent asset to the show. Special mention to the principles who all pulled off their challenging roles with passion and dedication. Special praise should be given to the magnificent band who played each song with precision and as an immaculate ensemble. With the band led by Mr Barraclough and the direction of the show from Mrs Wilson along with the super tech team, the cast produced an incredible show and set a very high standard for the next school show to live up to.



The Woman in Black - A Review

On Wednesday 22nd February, Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students went to watch *The Woman in Black* at the Nottingham Theatre Royal. As part of our Drama GCSE we have to write about a play we have seen and *The Woman in Black* is a great atmospheric play to write about.

The Woman in Black is a terrifying ghost story telling the tale of Arthur Kipps, a solicitor who travels to Eel Marsh House to search through essential paperwork belonging to the late Alice Drablow. He experiences some un-nerving activity while there, and he hires an actor to help him tell the tale of what happened to his friends and family.

The production is performed by just two actors (not including *The Woman in Black*.) One of them is David Acton, who plays Arthur Kipps but later takes on the other roles in his story telling. The other is Matthew Spencer, who plays an actor Mr Kipps has hired, and then plays Arthur in his play.

As you first take your seats, the set is made to look like a deserted, old theatre with costumes and props lying around. Over the course of the production, small props are used cleverly to take you to a busy street, to then a desolated house in the middle of nowhere, without lots of major changes. There was also a curtain across the back third of the stage and when the light shone behind it, you could see what was happening, which was effective because it allowed someone to be telling a story in front of the curtain, while something was happening behind it.

It's very hard to explain what happens without giving all the big details away! Part of the appeal of the production is the mystery, making you fear what will happen. Was it as scary as I thought it was going to be? I was very anxious about going to watch it, because I knew there was going to be jump scares and I don't like to be scared at all! But everyone assured me it couldn't be that bad because it was in a theatre and not in a cinema! ALL of the jump scares made me jump out of my skin! So I was on edge the whole performance waiting for something else to happen!

Overall, I really enjoyed the play, and so did everyone else who went. If it tours again, then I would definitely recommend you to go watch it.

Jessica Devlin 10D

Astronomy Evening

On Thursday 9th March, the Science Department put on an astronomy session for students from Years 7, 8 & 9. More than 20 students attended and a few parents and younger siblings decide to stick around and take the opportunity to have a look through our telescopes.

The session started off with observations of Venus in its crescent state, but the sky clouded over slightly which meant pictures were impossible. Fortunately the moon, along with the students, was shining brightly and there were lots of impressive pictures taken. The best picture of the night was taken by Aimee Thomas. Her shot showed up some excellent detail of the Moon's surface and she will be receiving a framed printout of the picture in the near future. Thank you to all of the students involved, it was a fantastic night and the staff enjoyed running it.

Keep an eye out for the next session on the science notice boards!



Performing Arts & Languages Building

Moves A Step Closer

Planning permission to build our new Performing Arts and Languages block has now been granted, and the construction phase is now out to tender.

Building work is planned to start in July 2017, with the aim of occupying the building from September 2018.

We are now preparing funding bids so that the sound and lighting systems in the drama rooms can provide a truly exceptional facility, not only for school and curriculum use, but as a facility that can be hired to support a wide range of community art, performance and meeting needs.

To secure funding we need to evidence community need and support for the facilities. We are very keen to forge links with community organisations who might wish to use the drama rooms, which are designed to work either as individual spaces or as a combined performance space for an audience of over 200. The rooms will be suitable for dance, drama (plays, musicals), poetry, music in all varieties (singing, classical, jazz, folk, rock and all shades in between), public meetings, film shows, etc.

If you are able to help in any way, or are interested in becoming a future hirer, please email rharrison@rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk.



Nottingham Football Centre

Rushcliffe School works in Partnership with the Nottingham Football Centre (part of Field Sports Management Ltd) to engage with the local community to promote health and sport for all.

As part of this relationship, the Nottingham Football Centre is proud to deliver training, competition and education to many local players and clubs. It is home to the Female Fives football league, partner to both local professional clubs, and supporters of so many grassroots teams.



In addition to the very busy pitches and pavilion, NFC has recently teamed up with School for Parents an organisation dedicated to enabling disabled children and supporting these children and their families (www.schoolforparents.org/)

NFC now provide donation bins and sales tables for local people to drop off their outgrown and unwanted football boots, NFC then sells these on for £5, with all the money donated to School for Parents. So far over £1,000 has been raised at the NFC for this wonderful charity. This support will continue for as long as people keep donating their football boots to our Sports Pavilion located behind the former Leisure Centre. Please see our web site (www.nottinghamfootballcentre.co.uk) for our opening hours.

NFC continues to be committed to the local community providing not only football but a range of sports and performing arts with top class facilities and support at affordable rates.

Twitter - @Nottmfooty

Leicester Tigers Join The Rugby Festival

We recently provided a fantastic opportunity for a number of our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils, where we hosted a Rugby Festival Day across the TAG. Farnborough Academy and Arnold Hill Academy were also involved and the day was ran by Leicester Tigers rugby coaches. The weather was fantastic and it was great to see so many young pupils interacting and enjoying themselves in a different environment; being able to showcase their undoubted ability and potential. It was the first time we have been involved in anything like this, where all schools have come together, but following the huge success there may well be future opportunities for other year groups.



Careers and Employability Skills

As the year progresses the employability skills projects at Rushcliffe School are now gaining momentum and we are just about to launch the AdvanTAGE Employability Skills Club for selected Year 10 students; this after-school club will give students the chance to learn the sorts of skills that employers want and reflect on how they can develop their own skills.

The Maths Faculty is planning a project with Experian to show students the vast number of jobs that are available at the big local company as well as learning about credit scores.

The Art Faculty is planning an exciting new screen printing project supported by local company October Textiles.

In addition some Year 11 students and most Year 12 students have just come back from work experience placements and have been learning first-hand about the world of work.

As part of National Careers and Apprenticeship Week, there have also been a series of careers related assemblies; one of these was given by Andy Hawksworth from Uniper to Years 10 and 11 about apprenticeships and another was given to years 9, 10 and 11 by Graham Wood from the Careers Enterprise Company and NGi Ltd. and gave students plenty to think about as far as jobs in the future are concerned. We have also had a focus on apprenticeships over the past few weeks with a special session for those Year 11 and 13 students interested in apprenticeships, led by ASK (Apprenticeships Skills and Knowledge) and a visit to the Central College Apprenticeships Fair in Ruddington. Apprenticeships are becoming much more interesting and present much more of an alternative to traditional post 16 and post 18 routes. If you are interested in receiving an information sheet about apprenticeships at all levels, please email ctomlinson@rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk.



Year 7 Gardening Club Update

Since our recent half term the spring flowers are popping up in the flower beds. The wildlife corner now has a bug hotel section.

We have planted outside in the raised beds, the ground or planters and in trays and plant pots in the Poly-tunnel;

Vegetables Courgettes, Parsnips, Carrots, Peas, Spinach, Cabbages, Red Cabbages, Leeks, Radishes, Pumpkins, Marrows.

Flowers Primroses, Calendulas, Gladioli, Sweet Peas, Cornflowers, Mirabilis, Acidanthera and a Wild Flower Mix.

Fruit we added some mature Raspberry Canes.

In the far corner by 221 and the garden shed we planted a 'Timperley Early' Rhubarb Plant.

We have taken some cuttings from the shrubs within the school to grow on in time.

The only problem with this group are students getting their Wellingtons stuck in the mud.

The group remains very enthusiastic and they all work hard in this garden and enjoy themselves.

Vacancies for Year 11 & 13 Students

Any vacancies that are notified to me for apprenticeships/jobs are posted on the Rushcliffe Careers Facebook page. Students need to check it if they are interested. Things come in throughout the summer too.

www.facebook.com/RushcliffeSchoolCareers

Year 9 Visit To Cambridge University



In March a group of our promising Year 9 pupils travelled to Cambridge University for the day. Highlights included a question and answer session with Cambridge undergraduates, a tour of the oldest college, St Peter's House and the chance to attend two mini lectures on Cancer Research and Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet given by current Cambridge PhD students. The weather was amazing and the kids, as always, did us proud. We had a fantastic day.





In a joint project between the Arts and Languages Faculties a number of students in year 7 and 8 have been rehearsing with the Nottingham Symphony Orchestra and conductor Derek Williams to perform the UK premiere of A Propos D'Animaux at the Royal concert Hall on April 2nd at 6pm. Students have been busy singing the French songs in lessons and lunch time clubs in readiness for the event named Animal Magic! Which also includes performances of Peter and the Wolf, The Firebird and Swan Lake. The BBC are interested in the performance too with a view to it becoming part of the BBC Children's Prom event in the summer. **Please come and support. Tickets are on sale from the Royal Concert Hall Box Office.**

TAG Junior Maths Team Challenge

On 24th February 2017, 36 Year 8 & Year 9 students from Rushcliffe School, The Farnborough Academy and Arnold Hill Academy came together to compete in the inaugural Trent Academies Group Junior Maths Team Challenge at Rushcliffe School.

All pupils showed lots of resilience in the face of some very challenging Maths problems that required creative approaches and a high degree of skill. The first round – the Group Round – involved pupils thinking creatively to solve ten problems. The next round – the Shuttle – really tested the students perseverance as the level of challenge increased. By the end of this round, second and third place were on the same amount of point. The final round – the Cross-number – needed logic and tactical thinking and teams were closely matched. The Rushcliffe teams consisted of:

- Rushcliffe Greens – Freddie Jackson, Vishwas Kancharlapalli, Rebekah Pike, Billy Usher.
- Rushcliffe Newtons – Karan Singh, Ella Stanbrook, Ellie Sanders, George Eustace.
- Rushcliffe Hypatia – Manav Sood, Julia Wilks, Danny Gardner, Kripa Kaphle.

After a tight competition between the teams, Rushcliffe Hypatia achieved the Gold Award and progress to the Junior Maths Team Challenge Regional Finals in Ashfield School. Rushcliffe Greens gained Silver Award while Rushcliffe Newtons attained the Bronze. Well done to all the pupils involved – it was lovely to see our Year 8 and 9 Mathematicians shining brightly!

Year 9 Regional Netball Tournament



On the 28th January the Year 9 netball team went to the Oundle School in Peterborough for the regional netball tournament. The group of girls were Ella Trott, Mia Barnes, Kyra McDonald, Chloe Brown, Ellie Maltby, Ella Loveridge, Annabel Bowles, Paige Duffy and Avani Sanghera.

The girls had recently got new kit; dresses, shorts and jackets. These were sponsored by Alexanders Estate Agents. All the girls were very excited about this because they had never worn dresses before for netball.

There were nine teams so we played eight matches in total. When we first arrived at the tournament we expected to only win a couple of games. All the girls played well and tried very hard winning 6 out of 8 matches unfortunately missing out going to the national tournament by one goal. When we heard this news all the girls were really disappointed but after reflecting on the whole day and how everyone played we were so proud and happy about this experience. We will never forget it. Ella Trott - Year 9



Student Voice: Films Reviewed

Ethan James 10G



Beauty And The Beast follows the traditional story of Belle who is taken away as a prisoner in the beast's castle. Unsure at first she finds herself warming up to the beast as they find out they have a lot more in common than anyone could ever imagine. Throughout the film Belle finds herself falling in love with the beast as she realises there is more to somebody than a pretty face and it's what it is inside that counts.

I grew up watching Beauty And The Beast. It was one of the first movies I had ever watched and fell in love with it as I made my parents watch it with me over and over again. So I was surprised to find that after I had seen Beauty And The Beast I had found myself to be unmoved by it all. It was an entertaining film but it seemed quite obnoxious in a sense which made me dislike it. Disney knew that this film would do well and decided to not take any risks with it at all. Emma Watson played the same role she plays in every single movie I have seen her in. Dan Stevens was unmemorable and his singing was beyond bad and it made me laugh harder than anything else in the movie. I liked the songs overall and I liked the pacing in the first and third act as the second act lacked any of the smoothness the other acts seemed to have. To me the movie had real potential but when the first trailer came out I knew it wasn't going to live up to the hype. It had several controversial themes yet they were shoved in just so the PG rating could be achieved. Surprisingly Gaston was the strongest performance as the actor had charisma and got into his character which nobody else seemed to do. Lafou was supposedly the comic relief yet his jokes weren't funny and more depressing. The best bit of this movie was when the beast turned into a human and the kid behind me screamed "he looks like Jesus".

Overall this film isn't a bad movie at all yet it isn't as magic as been described. If you enjoyed the first movie then you should go and see it. Otherwise I'm not sure if you would want too. **5/10**



Moonlight is a coming of age story about a young boy discovering himself and his sexual orientation as he battles out bullies, discrimination and poverty.

I knew when I first saw the trailer that I would adore Moonlight. I knew that it would appeal to me in many ways as the trailer was somewhat different to every other bland blockbuster which has been out recently. Moonlight is a component piece of art which is perfect in almost every way. I have one problem with a casting choice in this film but the role is minor so it doesn't really matter and I try not to nit-pick. Moonlight is everything every other Oscar film isn't and I am beyond happy that the Oscar was possessed by them. The film tries something new and it works with the whole tone. The cinematography is beautiful, the three main boys were a wonder to watch and the pacing was just right as it was slow yet it worked for a life story like this. Mahershala Ali was fantastic and almost stole the show from the main character as he played the sympathetic drug dealer. For me Moonlight is better than La La Land (even though I believe neither should be compared at all) as Moonlight showed a side to film which hasn't been done before yet it is now considered main stream which is great. Every single character in this movie is well thought out and as a character writer myself I was very impressed as this is something you don't tend to see often.

Overall this movie is great and I would recommend it fully even though I understand that this movie isn't for everybody. **10/10**

Paula Rawsthorne Visits the LRC

To tie in with their crime writing unit, local author Paula Rawsthorne held one hour workshops with every Year 8 class. During the interactive session the students were given the opportunity to make up their own characters and to write their own story openers.

"On the 23rd February, we had the pleasure to meet Paula Rawsthorne. She inspired us with her creative writing and we really enjoyed her visit. We both really recommend her books, The Truth About Celia Frost and Blood Tracks." - Rosa Meredith and Piper Morgan 8G

"Paula told us everything about how to write a book. She went over different scenarios to choose for a crime story and how to make the story more interesting by adding in twists and tension." - Sam Biddlesdon 8B



World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day on 24 March, Year 7 students, English and LRC staff dressed up as their favourite book characters. There were book related English lessons throughout the week and various competitions were held on the day. All students received a £1 World Book Day Voucher. Thank you to everyone who supported the Book Fair. From commission earned we gained over £450 worth of free books for the LRC!



LRC Book Club

This term we have been reading the six books shortlisted for the 2017 Brilliant Book Award (BBA) and many students had the opportunity to meet some of the shortlisted authors:



On 22nd Feb there was a trip to Chilwell School to see Mark Huckerby and Mark Ostler, co-authors of *Defender of the Realm*. Well done to Anja Halner 7B who was one of the two lucky winners of the Design a Super Hero Competition chosen by the authors on the day!

"The talk was really funny, interesting and engaging. I loved the competition they held and all the humour." - Mai Drury 7D

On 8th March Book Club students enjoyed a visit from Christopher Edge, author of *The Many Worlds of Albie Bright*, along with visitors from 6 other local schools. The event included an enthusiastic Q and A session and book signings when many students took the opportunity to buy a copy of Christopher's new book, *The Jamie Drake Equation*.

"I thought the visit was great because I am really into science and throughout the whole talk he was always talking about science."
- Joe Deans 8B



On Monday 20th March eight Book Club students took part in The Brilliant Book Award Inter-School Quiz at the Becket School. Out of a total of 11 teams, both of Rushcliffe's teams got through to the final!

In the closely fought contest with a tense tie-breaker finish, the final winners were Team A: Joe Deans 8B, Hina Hussain 7I, Rebekah Pike 9C and Brooke Thomas 9D who each won a £10 book token. The runners up were Team B: Amelie Grant 7I, Poppy Keeble 7I, Izabella Keen 7D and Ava Tucker 7I.

"I thought the quiz event was really enjoyable because it was something different which was both challenging and brilliant to do."
- Brooke Thomas 9D

All the students got to vote for their favorite book and the winner of the 2017 Brilliant Book Award is, *The Many Worlds of Albie Bright* by Christopher Edge. The runner up is *How to Look for a Lost Dog* by Ann M. Martin.

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

Physics Students Visit Geneva

On Thursday the 9th of February, Mr Malloney and Dr Morris jetted off to Geneva with twenty two year thirteen physics students.

The trip started with an evening meal in a Swiss themed restaurant. Below is a photo of Fenella and Emily holding a cowbell instrument whilst the resident musicians serenaded them!



The following day we soaked up some of the local history and culture as we went on a walking tour of Geneva's "Old Town". There was also the opportunity to pop in to one of Geneva's famous chocolateries and we went on a boat trip on Lake Geneva.



The main event was on the Saturday when we got up early and made our pilgrimage to CERN. We had an excellent tour of the facilities, experienced 3D simulations, visited the ATLAS experiment control rooms and had a fascinating lecture from one the resident physicists. As ever, it was a fantastic experience for the students and they were inspired by the scale of the site and what has been achieved by the people that have worked there for the last 63 years. We hope to run the trip again next year, so year twelve physicists; watch this space...



Buddy The Hamster

Buddy is the pet hamster in Learning Support. He is black and white with an orange/pink nose and tail. He is really funny and can do some cool tricks like crawling through a cardboard tube. He can also climb up the wooden hamster climbing frame and stand on his hind legs.

I like Buddy as you can talk to him and he just listens without talking back. He is really soft and I find it relaxing to stroke him.

I take responsibility for cleaning him out regularly (every Tuesday and Thursday) to make sure that he stays happy and healthy in a clean cage.

His favourite foods are apples, carrots, sugar snaps, and hamster treats.

He is really sweet but as he is still very young he can get a little bit tired and grumpy and wriggly. So you have to know when to leave him to rest.



It is great to have a hamster in school as it gives you something to look forward to when I see him at break and lunch. If you do not have a pet at home it is even better to have a pet at school.

The New £5 Note and £1 Coin

The new £5 note was introduced in September 2016, and the new £1 coin is being introduced on 28th March 2017.



Our cashless catering revaluer machine located in the 6th Form centre is new enough to recognise the new note and coin. Unfortunately, our older revaluer machines in "A" and "B" blocks are unable to recognise the new note and coin, and the cost of upgrading is prohibitively high and does not represent best use of school funding.

These machines will accept the old £1 coins until 15th October 2017, and the old £5 ceases to be legal tender on 5th May 2017.

The best way to pay for pupil school meals is through the Tucasi online payment system, the same system used to pay for school trips and events.

This can be topped up from home at any time without the need for pupils to be bringing cash to school.

<https://www.scopay.com/rushcliffe>

Extra-Curricular Timetable

To find the most up to date extra-curricular timetable please visit

www.rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk

and click on the Students page.

Red Nose Day

The total raised for Red Nose Day currently stands at £1624.38. This is the most we have ever raised on a non-uniform day.



Thank you to all students and staff who contributed and helped run stalls.

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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.

