

“Everyone will be given the chance to shine brightly”

Rushcliffe Post



Autumn Term



It's been lovely to welcome everybody back to school...



The Principal's Letter



Dear Parents / Carers

This half term has not been the usual start to the academic year. Everyone has had to adapt to new systems and strange ways of working. It's been a steep learning curve, but one that pupils and staff have dealt with brilliantly. For lots of people across our community, it has been a difficult period of time. Some have, sadly, lost loved ones, many have experienced feelings of isolation and we have all found the restrictions to our usual freedoms difficult. Our core values have remained at the heart of all we do – perhaps most notably the need to support each other. It is the kindness and care shown by so many across the school community in recent weeks that has been truly heart-warming.

In spite of the challenges, it has been delightful to have pupils back in school learning and enjoying the (socially-distanced) contact with each other and the members of staff who care for, teach and support them. It has been great for staff teams to be back together too. Rushcliffe is only Rushcliffe because of the people and, although modern technology like Zoom or Teams is wonderful, there is nothing quite like the buzz and energy of the school when everyone is here and able to see each other face-to-face.

The return to school in September brought with it our biggest ever year 12 intake and they've settled brilliantly into Sixth Form life and study – in spite of the disruption to their final months of year 11. For the new year 11 and year 13, there are worries about the year ahead and next summer's examinations but they too have started back positively and have already begun to make up for lost time during lockdown. At the other end of the school, our new year 7 pupils have been part of the Rushcliffe community for 7 weeks or so. Their transition to secondary school was not what it might otherwise have been – but you simply wouldn't know it. They've brought with them determination and positivity – and the usual quantity of running around in circles on the field at break time!

You'll see from this issue of the Rushcliffe Post that, although we haven't been able to do our usual range of trips and events this half term, there is still much to celebrate. Thanks to the great work of so many people, the school has been awarded the Career Mark gold award. Our eco committee have also been central in enabling us to achieve Green Flag status – the highest level of Eco-Schools award. You can read more about both these things and more on the pages that follow.

I'd like to thank you for all your support and understanding over the last few weeks; we know that it has been an equally challenging period of time for you as parents and carers. I've had lots of suggestions on how we can improve things, all of which we've listened carefully to and will form part of our future planning. I've also had lots of kind messages of thanks, which I've shared with the staff team. Although we continue to learn and improve what we do every day, it's nice for everyone in the team to know that their efforts are appreciated.

I hope you have a lovely half term

Damian Painton
Principal



Rushcliffe reaches gold in Career Mark Award

On 14th July 2020, the Rushcliffe School Careers Team undertook a virtual assessment day for the Career Mark quality assurance award. Career Mark is a set of standards used to measure how effectively careers provision is delivered and managed. Five standards make up the Career Mark framework, four measuring how the careers provision is managed and delivered, with the fifth measure focussing on learner outcomes.

We are delighted to share the news that we have received the Career Mark Gold award for our continuous good practice. This is our third successful assessment since our first accreditation in 2015.

Ms Desai, Careers Lead said "In order to ensure the school met the standards for the award, the school went through a rigorous assessment which included producing a comprehensive portfolio of evidence and the assessor speaking to students and key members of staff via videolink. All parties were asked focussed questions related to the careers programme which ranged from where to go for careers information, how they used Unifrog, what they have covered during Bright Days and how careers is linked to the curriculum".

The school had to provide evidence how they met the student's careers entitlement and how it is embedded within the curriculum to meet the needs of students across all key stages.

The award endorses the school in making good progress working towards all the accreditation criteria for the national quality award, the Quality in Careers Standard. This is done by providing independent, impartial guidance and advice to students. The school equips students with career management skills and the opportunity to explore all different career pathways post 16 and post 18 by providing up to date labour market information and providing an understanding of the impact of technology and the changing nature of the world of work.

Above all, the Career Mark Award shows that Rushcliffe School is committed to providing students with the support they need to help them make a successful transition into adulthood.

As a parent/carer, if you think you can help give our students the opportunity to learn from employers about work and employment, please get in touch via email hwaters@rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk. Please follow us on Twitter @RushcliffeC for career related news and updates.

New term, new website!

We're pleased to let you know that over the summer our website has had a makeover. You will still find us at rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk but you will see that the pages have been updated and re-organised. We hope that you'll enjoy taking a look and find everything that you need.

You can also currently view our virtual open evenings, both for prospective Year 7's and also for our fantastic Sixth Form. You'll find plenty of information including a virtual tour, an overview of the different subject areas, details on the admissions process, support available through the transition process and lots more.



Welcome to Rushcliffe School

Rushcliffe School is a successful, vibrant and friendly place for pupils and staff alike. We have a simple core purpose - "everyone at Rushcliffe School will be given the chance to shine brightly" - and this underpins everything we do. We will not only provide the opportunity to showcase the talents and abilities of our pupils in order that they can be happy, healthy and successful now and in the future.

In 2014, Rushcliffe School was recognised as outstanding in all areas by Ofsted. The school was accredited as a World Class School in 2020 and re-accredited in 2023. However, we are committed to continuous improvement and want to ensure that provision for our current pupils is the best it possibly





Students achieve top Green Flag Eco School Award

We are delighted to announce that hard work by our Eco Reps, with support from the wider community of Rushcliffe School students & staff, has been recognised by Eco-Schools and awarded the top Green Flag Award.

Over the last two years our Eco Reps have worked hard to achieve the Bronze and Silver Eco Award through a variety of whole school initiatives, such as Duracell's Big Battery Hunt for safe battery collection and disposal, Walkers crisp packet collections, and organising our participation in the national 'Switch Off Week' and 'Waste Week' to reduce energy use and waste output.

During the last academic year, the Eco Reps maintained their focus on these initiatives, as well as going one step further to expand their impact into other areas of the school. For example, Eco Reps worked with the Healthy Eating Ambassadors to discuss the sustainability of canteen utensils, packaging, and ingredient sources such as farm-assured bacon.



They advertised a milk bottle top collection to ensure the correct recycling of these bottle tops, as well as upcycling a proportion of them to create creative festive cards that were handed out in local care homes by our sixth form YOPEY befrienders. Students in the wider school have also expanded their awareness of the environment through their lessons by carrying out microplastic experiments, researching food packaging in Food Technology, analysing plastic & air pollution data in Geography, and creating their own environmental campaigns for change during their Bright Day, focusing on 'think globally, act locally'.

During these campaigns they considered their own social responsibility and developed an understanding of how people stand up to create positive change globally and in local communities.

With the introduction of the new plastic bottle bins at the start of 2020, several Year 9 students presented confidently in our assemblies to update the school on the progress they had made and what more was to come.



Following this, and their achievement of the Silver Award, students gained their moment of fame, being filmed by ITV Central News to talk about their efforts – what a fantastic recognition of their hard work!



Despite the lockdown, students continued to maintain their focus on sustainability within their lessons, for example in DT they carried out an 'Eco Chic' project to recycle, reuse, repair and rethink how to turn unwanted or discarded items or material into a new must have useful product.

As well as congratulating the Eco Reps for their outstanding achievements, the whole school students & staff should be commended for their help towards environmental awareness and sustainability and therefore the attainment of the Green Flag Award – well done to all!



News from Rushcliffe 6th Form

UCAS Applications 2021 Cycle

Our first of many UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) applications for our Y13 cohort was sent on October 1st!

Mr Roberts, Head of Year 13 commented "I look forward to sending many more in the coming days with the Early Entry deadline of Oct 15th rapidly approaching."

This year we have over 25 students making an 'early entry' application – this includes all students aiming for places at Oxbridge or on prestigious Dentistry, Medicine and Veterinary Science degrees.

We would like to wish all Y13 students' luck with both UCAS and Apprenticeship applications and are looking forward to hearing updates as offers for interviews and university places for 2021 should soon start to roll in.



Rushcliffe Sixth Form Virtually welcome back ASSET

ASSET - Adrian Sudbury Schools' Education Trust - is a fantastic charity which delivers the 'Register & Be a Lifesaver' Education Programme to Sixth Form Students raising awareness about Blood, Stem Cell and Organ donation.

We have been inviting ASSET into the sixth form for the past ten years. During this time 400 of our students have joined the Stem Cell Register, leading to three students "matching" to donate their Stem Cells, giving a stranger in need a second chance of life.

Although the pandemic has prevented our regular annual visit from ASSET we are delighted to be showing ASSET's video presentation to our current Y12 students this week to inform them about the charity's vital work and give them the opportunity to register for the programme.

Year 12 Enrichment Programme

As a way of providing stimulating and engaging opportunities beyond the core curriculum all y12 students take part in an enrichment activity.

Timetabled for an hour a week the students select from various options including a range of qualification and non-qualification elements. The programme consists of Mandarin Chinese, Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, Functional IT Skills, the Extended Project Qualification, Young Enterprise Award and new for 2020, Reading for critical and creative thought, the Sports Leaders' Award and Community First.

The Community First group have already forged relationships with a local primary school to offer a virtual PE session and have been writing letters to residents at a local care home – making a difference in our local community despite the current lockdown restrictions.

Learning Resource Centre News

Roald Dahl Story Day

Sunday 13th Sept was Roald Dahl Story Day. To celebrate we held a Year 7 inter form quiz. A big well done to 7E who were this year's Roald Dahl champions with a great score of 17 out of 20!



Year 7 Bookmark Design Challenge

Over the summer our new year 7 students created Origami Bookmarks inspired by their favourite books. It was really difficult to choose from the many inspirational designs we received but the final winners were:



Erin Hill 7H
*Evil Harpy from
'Rumble Star'*



Joseph Riley 7D
Gnasher



Archie Milnes
Hubbard 7C
Harry Potter



Isobel Tittensor 7F
Gangsta Granny

Book Club

Book Club will be starting up again next half term in the LRC. Year 7 will meet on a Wednesday lunchtime and year 8 on Mondays after school. Everyone is welcome. Come along to make new friends and join in with quizzes, games, and much more.

Book Club members will soon be busy reading the 6 The 'Brilliant Book Award (BBA)' shortlisted books. The BBA is an annual award voted for by students in schools across Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City and Derbyshire and this year's shortlist will be announced in November. The overall winner will be announced on 22nd March 2021. For more information go to: <https://bba.inspireculture.org.uk/>

During lockdown **Book Club** continued online giving students the opportunity to learn about free online reading resources and share reading recommendations virtually!

'Can I just say how much my son enjoyed Book Club last week. It has encouraged him to start reading again. So, for that I owe you a big thank you!' Year 7 Parent

Here are some highlights:

Students photographed their own 'Escape' Reading Rooms/Spaces with, and without, themselves in the picture. These were used for a 'Guess Who' quiz:

Treehouse complete with ingenious pulley system for transferring books from the house!



And some more conventional cosy reading spaces...





Literary Bakes!

Alice in Wonderland 'Eat Me' biscuits

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets,
'Polyjuice Potion'



Digital Resources

With access to the LRC and other physical libraries currently restricted we have extended our online reading provision:



ePlatform

A digital library which allows students to download books onto multiple devices. It is available here: <https://rushcliffe.eplatform.co/>

There is also a link on Moodle: **Student Resources-LRC-ePlatform** The login credentials are the same as for the school computers:

e.g. Username: jbloggs2020 and their usual password.



Reading Cloud

This is the LRC catalogue which many of the students know as Searchstar. This allows students to search for books, check their accounts and reserve books they would like to read.

It is available here: <https://u000384.microlibrarian.net/> and there is also a link on Moodle: **Student Resources-LRC-eclipse.net**

They can login using their Windows credentials (the same as their school email accounts)

e.g. Username: jbloggs2020@rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk and their usual password. There are also Moodle links (**Student Resources-LRC**) for the following, with no user name/password required.

A Level Review Magazine Digital Archive

Review magazines support A level courses and can help you gain those all-important extra marks. They include articles written by examiners on key subject areas and features on exam technique.

Complete Issues Online

This is a one-stop, up to date online resource with articles and statistics relevant to all key stages and areas of the curriculum. The website is designed to encourage browsing and exploring a range of interesting articles and you can also search for specific topics.

Issues Online

Another cross curricular resource covering a wide range of social issues. 24-hour access on tablet, desktop and mobile to over 70 e-books, with over 1,000 printable articles, plus statistics and links for further research.

A glimpse into the world of Textiles

The Year 12 students have got off to a fantastic start in Textiles where they are producing work in line with their chosen theme.



This consists of some research into the work of artists, experimenting with different textiles media, techniques, skills and processes and they are now starting to produce a final outcome in response to their theme.



Students are focussing on themes such as under the sea, beaches, exotic birds, growth and decay, natural forms and nature and are designing and producing their own patterns in order to make products such as trousers, dresses, jackets and home interior.



Take a look at these great displays that have been created.

Diary Dates:

November - December 2020

2nd November
School Re-opens

9th November—20th November
Y11 Assessments

17th December
Y11 Parents Evening

2nd November—6th November
Y13 In Class Assessments

18th November
Y10 National Computing Museum

21st December– 1st January
Christmas Holiday

2nd November—20th November
GCSE Autumn Series

3rd December
Y9 Parents Evening

4th January
INSET Day

3rd November
BMAT/UKCAT Exams

10th December
Y13 Parents Evening

5th January
School re-opens

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