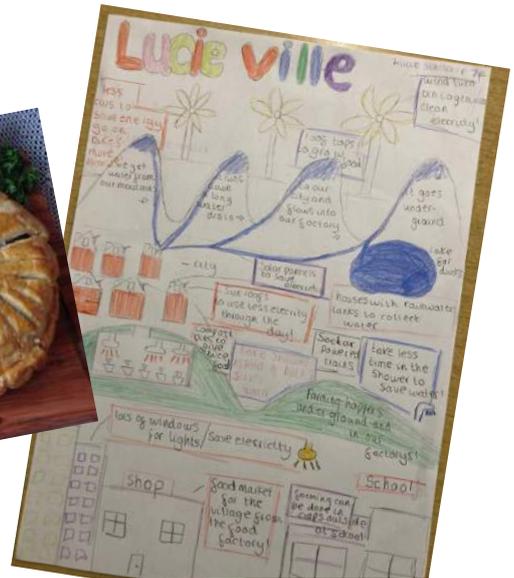


“Everyone will be given the chance to shine brightly”

Rushcliffe Post



May Half Term 2021



It's been all systems go since we've been back...



The Principal's Letter



Dear Parents / Carers

We reach the end of another busy half term. You can read about some of the fabulous things that have been going on across the school in this issue of the Rushcliffe Post.

You'll see that, following consultation across our school community, we have added a new core value to our existing 5: we care for our world. It's an important message – the sense of care for people and planet – and one that we hope will continue to be reflected in all that we do as a school.

Despite continuing restrictions, our pupils have continued to engage with organisations in the local community and more widely to raise money and awareness of important issues. Our most recent non-uniform day was in aid of two organisations fighting racism. I'd like to thank the wonderful Sixth Form students who were instrumental in our efforts on that day. We are keen to continue raising money for charity as well as supporting a range of student-led initiatives. This is why we are launching a school lottery. You can read more about this on page 8. Look out for information on how to buy tickets and support some great causes.

Pupils have also continued to produce some brilliant work in school and at home. You can see some examples of this from subjects like food, technology, geography and politics in this issue. Please do also keep an eye on the school twitter feed as we regularly share examples of the amazing work our pupils produce there.

I wanted to save my final word in this issue for pupils in year 11 and 13. It has been wonderful to celebrate with them this week as they come to the end of their Rushcliffe journey. The smiles, the laughter (and, in the case of year 13, the fabulous fancy dress) were a joy to see. Challenge after challenge has been thrown at these young people by the pandemic and they've responded brilliantly, with real determination and resilience, particularly over the last few weeks as they've been preparing for and completing final assessments. We are proud of each and every one of them – and thank them for the fabulous contributions they have made to the Rushcliffe community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Damian Painton
Principal

We care for our world

As you know, at Rushcliffe School we have a very simple core purpose: to give everyone the chance to shine brightly. This core purpose drives everything we do. We seek out any opportunity to showcase and grow the talents and abilities of our pupils and our staff in order that we can all be happy, healthy and successful – now and in the future. This is underpinned by five core values that apply to our whole school community: We try our best; We support each other; We listen to different opinions; We keep each other informed; We are proud to be part of the school.

We strive to be a group of people who care about each other, those in our local community and those further afield; we want everyone in our school to show compassion, empathy, understanding and respect towards all groups of people – no matter who they are, their background or their particular circumstances. We want to challenge inequality, and promote diversity.

We also see the importance of looking after our planet with its valuable natural resources and remarkable ecosystems. There has been so much good work in recent years by committed pupils and staff to reduce our energy consumption, to recycle or reuse and to encourage people to think about the environment – a good deal of it driven by our fabulous eco-committee. We want these things, care for people and planet, to remain central to all that we do in the future so, after a successful consultation, we are proud to add a sixth core value to those we already have: We care for our world.

Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts and opinions throughout this process, we look forward to continuing, and expanding, the fantastic work in this area.

Non uniform day

Rushcliffe School recently held a non-uniform day (sports shirts for the Sixth Form) to support two organisations fighting racism in our local community.



Thank you for supporting your child with their donation. Through non uniform and a delicious bake sale we raised over £1600!

If you wish to donate more to either of the two organisations we have been supporting, there are details on how you can do so on their websites: www.stophateuk.org www.nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk

A big thank you to the 'Students Speak' team for arranging the fantastic day of fundraising. Their latest student newsletter can be viewed on their website here: [Students Speak \(webnode.com\)](http://Students Speak (webnode.com))



Student Voice - Friary trainer donation

As a part of our community first enrichment option, we have partnered with the friary to help them with their current appeal for men's trainers, sizes 8-11 and women's trainers, size 5-8. The friary Support local homeless and vulnerable adults who don't tend to have a change of footwear. Office and formal shoes will not be accepted as they are not appropriate for this collection, however any other trainer style show would be very much appreciated.

The sooner we can get donations the better as we are planning the donation the week commencing Monday the 7th of June. Donations can be dropped off throughout the week as the Friary will be collecting the donations on Friday the 11th June. Any donations should be preferably washed beforehand and taken to the sixth form office preferably in a bag, especially if you are planning on bringing multiple pairs of shoes. Thank you - Lauren, Grace and Leo



News from across the departments

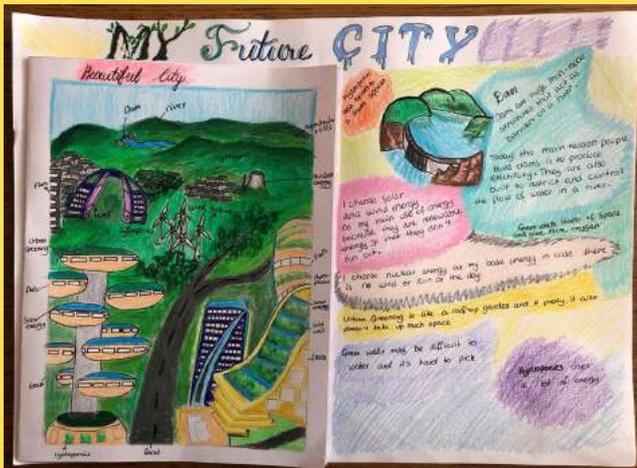
Politics students talk politics!

This term A level Politics students were lucky to have a TEAMS link up with the House of Lords to conduct a live Q and A session with Baroness Fookes. As a serving member of the House of Lords, and thanks to her previous role as a Conservative MP, she was able to give a fascinating insight into how both chambers work as well as giving us her views into some modern political issues.



Students asked her some very probing questions which they had prepared in advance, which ranged from what she saw the purpose of the House of Lords as in a modern democracy as well as her views about the Police and Crime Bill and increases to spending on defence in a time of pandemic and recession; which she explained was influenced by her time as an MP for Plymouth and its links with the navy and well as shipbuilding.

We also couldn't resist asking her views on women in politics as she was famously described as 'a gorgeous redhead' and asked about her love life when first elected as an MP in 1970- she politely referred to the wider discussion about Prime Minister Edward Heath being unmarried as well, so wasn't just about women! The session was a great opportunity to get a personal glimpse of an institution that gets little media attention but plays an integral part in how we are governed in the UK as well as showcasing the political astuteness of Politics students in Rushcliffe School.

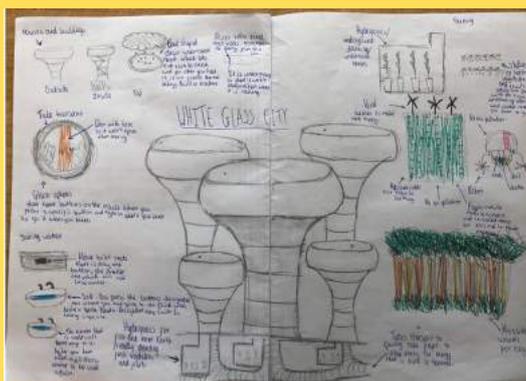


Year 7 Geography

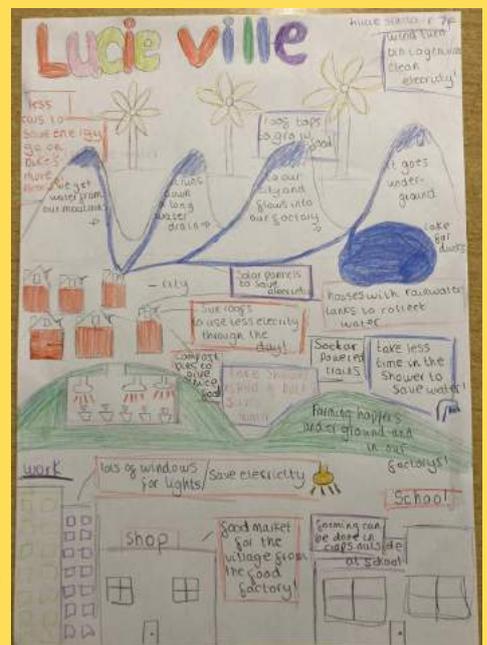
Innovation, creativity and problem-solving have been at the forefront of Year 7's learning this term in Geography. Students have collated 4 weeks of learning about vital resources such as water, food and energy in order to design their very own sustainable city of the future.

To meet top standard, students had to come up with 3 sustainable ways to make energy, 1-way water will be provided, 4-5 ways to save water, and 3 type of farming: all put together in an annotated drawing of their city. Some of these concepts were introduced during lockdown, so it was particularly impressive to see students drawing on their remote lessons and demonstrating commitment and ownership of their learning.

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The challenge was met with great enthusiasm and some fantastic designs have been created across the year. Have a look at a few examples below. Well done Year 7!



GCSE Food and Nutrition

The Year 11 students studying Food preparation and nutrition GCSE and Level 1 Food and Cookery Skills have completed their Food practical assessments. The practical work completed reflected imaginative and creative dishes suitable for 'meat free' eating and for the Level 1 course, dishes suitable for a buffet 21st celebration.

All students worked hard and independently to produce quality dishes and should be extremely proud of their achievements. Well done all - Mrs Lacey.



Real Homework in Design & Technology



Year 8 have recently completed a 'real homework' activity for Design & Technology. Their challenge was to design and develop a solution that helps the local community.

Gabriel has produced a fantastic model of his bus stop concept. He has considered all aspects of his design really well. In his presentation to the rest of the class, he has effectively communicated how it would help and improve the local community. Well done Gabriel!



Year 9 have also recently completed a 'real homework' activity for Design & Technology. The Real Task was called 'Designer Influence'. Students researched famous designers and design companies to understand their styles and understand the ideas behind their work. Students then selected one designer or company to create a case study on that would help them to develop a new design. The design or model had to be

inspired by their chosen designer but be a new and original piece of work.

This is just a small selection of the creative work and excellent effort put in by y9 in Design Technology. It looks as though there are some future designers in the making here to look forward to. Well done on behalf of Ms Fothergill and the Design Technology Department



Library and Resource Centre News

Digital Resources

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

Reading Cloud

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

Books reserved while school is closed can be collected from reception by arrangement.

Contact: lgoodwin-king@rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk

It is available here: <https://u000384.microlibrarian.net/>

There is 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.



ePlatform

A digital library which allows students to download books onto multiple devices. Two ebooks can be borrowed at a time for two weeks. If needed for longer they can be borrowed again.

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](mailto:jbloggs2020@rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk) and their usual password.



There are Moodle links (Student Resources-LRC) for the following, with no user name/ password required: **A Level Review Magazine Digital Archive, Complete Issues Online and Issues Online.**

Year 7 Half Term Challenge - The Empathy Shoe Shop

The LRC holiday challenge is to design or cut out some shoes for your favorite book character! Draw the character in their new shoes and explain why they would choose them.



There will be achievement points for everyone who enters, with prizes awarded for the best entries. Details on how to enter will be posted on satchel:one. Closing date 14th June,

The competition, designed by the Empathy Lab, ties in with Empathy Day on 10th June. Being able to understand how other people think and feel is a vital skill. Research shows that reading inspires children to talk about emotions and see the world from other people's perspectives.

This link has lots more brilliant empathy-boosting activities for the whole family to do at home: <https://www.empathylab.uk/family-activities-pack>

The 2021 Read for Empathy collection features 50 books for 4-16 year olds, many of which are available in the LRC: <https://www.empathylab.uk/2021-read-for-empathy-collections>

Book Club

Year 7 meet every Wednesday lunchtime in the LRC. Come along to make new friends and join in with quizzes, games, book awards and much more. An after-school book club for year 8 will be starting on a Monday after half term.

The 'Brilliant Book Award' (BBA) is an annual award organised by Inspire: Education Library Service and voted for by Key Stage 3 students from across Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City and Derbyshire.

The students recently read the 6 shortlisted books, enjoyed virtual talks by some of the authors and voted for their favorite title.

The winner of the 2021 BBA was *Spylark* by Danny Rurlander.

<https://www.dannyrurlander.com/>

Here is Danny's fabulous introduction to the book which is set on location in the Lake District and includes questions from some Rushcliffe students:

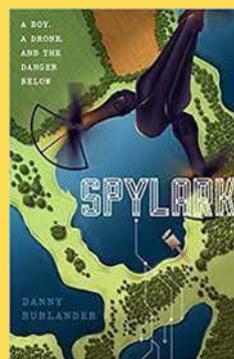
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiYFH58K4_Y

Watch Danny's acceptance speech here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAqK8JXX7Zo>

The BBA Runner Up 2021 was *FloodWorld* by Tom Huddleston

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_J9IZHYUV4



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

Over the last month, following the live virtual event with author Penny Joelson in March, Book Club students have been reading her page turning thriller *I Have No Secrets*. They have thoroughly enjoyed coming together each week to discuss and share opinions about the characters, plot twists and issues raised by the story:

*'I really like Penny Joelson's books. I read **I Have No Secrets** with Book Club, then went on to read **The Girl in the Window** and now I'm reading **Things the Eye Can't See**. I really enjoy her books. Please write more!'* Ciara Maloney 7E

*'I really enjoyed reading **I Have No Secrets** because it was exciting and motivational. Penny Joelson had so much going on in the book which made it so exciting for me! It was great!'* Sophie Forster 7C

Find Your Space



April was *Stress Awareness month* and 10th-16th May was *Mental Health Awareness Week*. We currently have a display in the LRC which ties in with the Nature and the Environment theme.

Obviously, these issues are of great importance to our students all year round so there is now a permanent new section in the LRC, *Find Your Space*. This includes a range of fiction and non-fiction books to support wellbeing. Topics covered include gender, self-esteem, body image, identity, anxiety etc.



Careers News



Life after Rushcliffe

Rushcliffe School is always keen to ensure that students are able to connect their academic learning to the world of work. Each faculty ensures links to their subjects and the wider world is known. We hope this inspires our students to understand the application of subjects to different careers.

- Holly Waters, Careers Coordinator and Shrutee Desai, Careers Lead

The Parent Perspective

Amazing Apprenticeships and NGTU have teamed up to arm parents with knowledge, keep them informed and make sure they are best placed to help their child with their next steps through a new 8 part podcast. You can listen by clicking here for more info: [The Parent Perspective Podcast - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

The
Parent
Perspective
podcast

Rushcliffe School Lottery

We are launching The Rushcliffe School Lottery to raise funds for the school. Details on how to support this initiative will be available after half-term. The First draw will be Saturday 10th July, and tickets will be available shortly, more information will follow.

Funds raised will be used to support student led initiatives. This will include ideas raised through school council or other groups such as our Eco warriors. Monies will also support clubs to purchase resources they may need.

A percentage of monies raised will go to the name charity we have identified again through student voice. The lottery is being organised by an external company called 'Your School Lottery.' They will manage funds and deal with all enquires. The tickets are £1 of which 40p goes to school funds, 30p to local prizes, 6p to the jack pot prize and 20p to administration costs and finally 4p is VAT.

If you are able, please support the school to raise funds. The school lottery is not just for parents and staff of the school. Any one you know can also join such as wider family members, friends and neighbours.



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