

“Everyone
will be given
the chance
to shine
brightly”



Rushcliffe

Post October 2017



Results Days, fundraising, lots of trips & more inside...



The Headteacher's Letter

Welcome to the first Rushcliffe Post of the new academic year.

It has been a really positive start to the year. 280 new year 7 pupils joined us and they have settled beautifully, really engaging in our core values and following The Rushcliffe Way. After achieving some of our best ever GCSE results in the summer, over 160 year 12 pupils started their A level courses. They have high aspirations and a determination to follow in the footsteps of previous sixth formers including our outgoing year 13 who have now started university courses, work and apprenticeships, or are enjoying a gap year after achieving some stunning A level successes.



It has also been great to see so many parents and carers in school. We have been delighted to invite you to information evenings, our careers fair, whole school and sixth form open evenings and meet the tutor events. Teachers have lead trips to Barcelona, Paris and Iceland. We mustn't forget that all year 7 pupils have also attended the team building day at Walesby with their tutors and Ms Richardson. They certainly had a great time.

The new build is progressing at some pace. I think the size of the building was a shock for some but the excitement is growing, especially within the Languages and Arts faculties as they prepare to move in and make use of the state of the art facilities. We are particularly looking forward to having a new performance space where so many of our talented pupils can share their skills through shows and within a vibrant arts curriculum including GCSE and A level. The new build has caused some traffic congestion especially at the beginning and end of the day. Children's safety is paramount and we ask that if you have to bring your car on to the school site that you do so with extreme care and consideration for the number of children we have on site. After half term the first bay on the right as you come into the car park will be for construction workers vehicles only. Please don't use it as a place to drop off or pick up children.

I hope you have a lovely half term holiday and as always thank you for the continued support you give the school.

Steve Lewis

2017 GCSE AND A LEVEL RESULTS

Over the summer we were extremely proud to see the Year 11s and Y13s collect their results. The culmination of many years of hard work by pupils, staff and parents resulted in yet another year where our students achieved some excellent results that allowed them to progress on to the next step of their journey.

GCSE RESULTS

Despite the new more rigorous examinations for English and Maths our GCSE students achieved our best ever results. 88% of our students achieved a standard pass (equivalent to a grade C or above) in both English and Maths.

There is now also a new government Progress 8 measure which is designed to measure the progress made by students across a range of subjects whilst they have been at the school. Our provisional **Progress 8** score is 0.52 which puts Rushcliffe in the highest band (top 12% of schools nationally) for pupil progress in the country. This score indicates that students will have done at least, on average, a half of a grade better *per subject* than could have been reasonably expected from their starting points in Year 7 and allowed them to leave Rushcliffe School with a whole range of outstanding qualifications.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	National 2015/6
Level 4+ in	80	83	88	56.6
Progress 8		0.26	0.52	0

These outstanding GCSE results facilitated both record numbers to join our ever growing Sixth Form and other leavers to enrol on to a range of meaningful courses at college. Whilst we are proud of the achievements of all our students we would like to highlight the success of Finnuala Brett, Zach Hutson, Jessica Pinkney, Robbie Chambers, Ria Sood, Freya Vanhegan, Cam Fraser, Georgia Rand, Lucy Stacey and Georgia Robinson who each obtained a straight set of 9s in Maths, English Language and English Literature.



Nationally there were only 2000 students who achieved 3 grade 9's (a truly exceptional result); 10 of those students were at Rushcliffe. A significant proportion of the GCSE students also had to manage their time between studying and participating in extra-curricular activities; this required both resilience and dedication. Evie Fletcher for instance is one of a group of students from Rushcliffe who represent the GB canoe slalom team and had incredible success in achieving a set of A*s and As. As another example, Nick Winters represents England ice hockey and also achieved a fantastic set of GCSE results. Year 11 rose to the challenge of GCSEs and we are very proud of everything they achieved.

A LEVEL RESULTS

We were delighted by another set of fantastic A-Level results from the Y13s at Rushcliffe School. Of particular note were the 16 students who gained all A or A* grades, these included Payam Soleimani-Nouri who gained 4 A*s and is studying Medicine at Imperial College. Ellen Morgan who got A*A*A and is studying modern Foreign Languages at Durham. Evie Roberts, A*A*A, who is studying Politics at Warwick. Jasmin Turner, A*A*A studying Architecture at Bath. Eleanor Watson, studying History at Cambridge (A*A*A), and Jade Hollick who gained A*A*A and is doing an Art Foundation Course at Loughborough – we could go on! In summary students have yet again accepted courses at Oxbridge, 7 students have gone on to study medicine from Rushcliffe this year and 43% of our students went to Russell Group Universities.

Well done to all of these students, we are immensely proud of you all, as indeed we are of all our Y13s who have just left. Other students are enjoying gap years travelling or are spending a year doing voluntary work. While some have gained full time employment or secured first class apprenticeships, e.g. William Chrisp at Faithful and Gould Architects and Angus Rickell-Read at Severn Trent Water. We were also immensely proud to once again participate in the YOPEY befriending scheme and there has also been numerous sporting successes from Table Tennis to Kayaking and Cycling.



This year's new Y13s have a lot to live up to, but we believe they can do it!

Employability and Careers

We have received a lot of really great news recently regarding the careers provision at Rushcliffe School. Firstly, this month the Trent Academies Group won the East Midlands



Chamber of Commerce Award for Education and Business Partnership. This is the second year running that we have won this award for our work on engaging with local businesses and for promoting employability skills within the curriculum. Last year we made it to the finals in London so we are hoping to be successful again this year.

Secondly, we have been awarded the prestigious Career Mark Gold Award for quality career provision in Rushcliffe School. This award is based on interviews with students, so a huge thank you to all

the students who took part and demonstrated that they are knowledgeable about their options and have been well prepared for the future by the work we do here.

There is a lot going on this term too as the focus is on preparing Year 11 and 13 students for making good choices for their post-16 and post-18 options. Following the Bright Day we had the Careers Fair on Monday 16th October, open to years 9 to 13. There was also a Mock Interview Day for all Year 11 students and volunteers from Year 13 on Tuesday 17th October, when representatives of local industries interviewed students and gave them feedback on how to improve their performance.



In addition, we want all parents to feel more informed so you can help your children with their choices. We will be running a Careers Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 15th November, mainly aimed at parents of Year 11 students but also open to parents of Year 10 students too; details to be sent out shortly. Later in the year we will run a similar event for parents of Year 9 students.

If you have any questions you can contact me, ctomlinson@rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk or our Careers Adviser Rhonda Smith, rosmith@rushcliffe.notts.sch.uk or follow us on Twitter @RushcliffeC for the latest updates.

Miss Tomlinson

Year 8 visit Paris

A great time has been had by 88 year 8 pupils travelling to Paris to practice our Maths! This year we visited Paris with our colleagues from Farnborough Academy which meant we had two coaches of eager year 8 students.

Our first day was mostly spent travelling down to Dover and across the Channel to Calais and luckily the journey out was fairly calm. Day two was a hectic day visiting a number of the famous sites in Paris with the early start being a shock to a number of our pupils! We started the day in the Cité des Sciences, the largest Science Museum in Europe where the students enjoyed the variety of mathematical exhibits. After this we enjoyed a traditional French meal followed by a reflective evening visit to the Arc de Triomphe where we watched the Eiffel Tower twinkle.



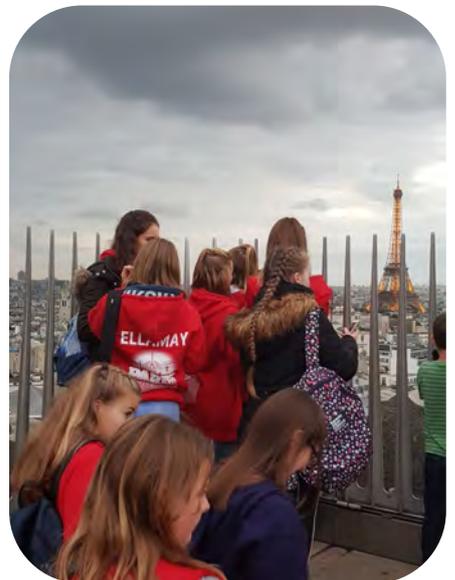
The Eiffel Tower was definitely the highlight of day three. As part of our Maths project the pupils interviewed other tourists to find out where they had travelled from. This was an opportunity to practice our French but also an interesting opportunity to hear that some tourists had travelled from as far as Australia! The height of the tower did get to some of our group but all were pleased with themselves for making it at least half way up! This was followed by a gentle boat ride down the Seine where we had some lunch while spotting some famous landmarks.

We also visited Disneyland where pupils enjoyed rides and met some of their favourite characters! Everyone was worn out by dashing from ride to ride with friends so the coach journey back to our accommodation was nice and quiet! It was a spectacular to end our visit with the evening parade and fireworks and the show did not disappoint. A long journey home on the coaches followed with films and Maths to keep the students busy!



I am always pleased when members of the public compliment our pupils as they displayed great behaviour. Fun was had by all, some super Maths took place and it was particularly great to see students from both schools getting along together so well, building friendships to last well past the trip.

Mr Morris



Donate An Instrument

Forgotten flute? Lonely viola? Dusty double bass? Do you have a neglected instrument at the back of a cupboard or under the stairs? We will gratefully take any orchestral instrument, as well as guitars and saxophones.

This year at Rushcliffe School we are delighted to announce that instrumental tuition uptake has increased by a staggering 77%, its highest ever increase. Just under 10% of the school population are now having musical instrument lessons in school and with this increased demand we are struggling to get everyone an instrument. **That's where you might be able to help.**

Donate your neglected instrument to Rushcliffe Music Department and breathe new life into it. We would be delighted to take these instruments off your hands, and ensure they are regularly and lovingly played by students excited by the opportunity to learn an instrument and take part in ensemble music-making.

If you think you can help, please do get in contact with the school. We look forward to hearing from you.

Year 13 student blogs for British Geological Survey

Year 13 student Laura Wainman carried out work experience with the British Geological Survey in Keyworth over the summer holidays.

Her fantastic blog has been published on the BGS website where she explains the interesting experiments she helped with throughout the week.

It can be found at the following link: <http://britgeopeople.blogspot.co.uk/2017/09/my-work-experience-week-at-british.html>



Sixth Form raise money for Mental Health Awareness Day



On the 10th October it was Mental Health Awareness Day and so Rushcliffe School sixth form charity committee decided to both fundraise and raise awareness. In order to fundraise, the charity committee held a cake sale for both lower school and sixth form. The committee was able to raise £354 for the charity Young Minds from the cake sale, a henna stall and donations to wear Yellow.

To raise awareness the committee requested for students and staff to wear Yellow and also sent out a PowerPoint presentation and quiz containing information on Mental Health.

Masuma Abbas Raza - Rushcliffe Charity Committee



Student Voice: Kenya Visit 2017

In July, a number of Rushcliffe students travelled to Kenya for 4 weeks to immerse ourselves in not only the culture but the contrasting environment to the one we live in. The trip started off at Camp Tsavo where our main project work was building the foundations for a new classroom at the Marungu Secondary School. Alongside this project we also spent time at a tree nursery, deworming villagers' goats so that they can sell them for better value and making elephant deterrents to prevent further conflict between man and animal. Moreover, we had the chance to spend a day with the Tumaini women's group where we learnt about the work they do and how they support themselves and each other.



We were then very fortunate to spend 5 days at Camp Firefly where we completed our PADI open water dive qualification. This experience was very challenging at times, but as a close-knit group we supported each other and all our team members dived in the Wasini Channel and were awarded our qualification.

Our last camp was in the village of Muhaka and our main project work here was finishing off 'Mamas House'. Before Camps International intervened, an 80-year-old man, called Hamisi, who is paralysed from his hips down was sleeping outside on the porch of the house for almost 2 years. Inside was his Mother; a 106-year-old women called Marta and his sister and niece. The house was a mud shack with 2 separate rooms, there was no running water or electricity! Our team finished the work of the teams previous and completed the extension for Hamisi to have his own room.

Despite the physical challenges we faced, the outcome of providing a home for someone who desperately needed it was more rewarding than any negatives we faced. To see the smile on the communities faces really highlighted how little it takes to change their lives. The experience not only humbled us as students, but ensured we will not take things that we have for granted and appreciate just how privileged we are to not only have an amazing, free education but for all the health services and structures in place to support us in our everyday lives as well as our future. Our experience in Kenya helped us come to realise the importance of volunteering to help those less fortunate than us and we can definitely say it has inspired us to do more volunteering in the future.

We would strongly recommend taking any opportunity like this without question. The hard work and what may seem daunting really does pay off and work in your favour. We have made friends for life and memories that will last forever.

Written by, Serena Norman Thomas, Elizabeth Hallam and Niamh Bergin.

Being Safe Online

3 Top Tips

Engage in open discussion

Promote open and calm discussion about your child's experiences on the internet. If they fear they will be blamed or punished for their online mistakes, they are more likely to hide a problem or try and fix it themselves, potentially making it a lot worse.

Talk about the risks

It's important to discuss potential dangers early and regularly. Although topics such as grooming and sexual content can be uncomfortable to approach, it's imperative children are equipped with the tools to protect themselves online.

Encourage your child to read up about the risks. There is a range of information explaining the potential consequences of their online behaviour, and advice on how they can protect themselves from threat. Follow this link: <https://www.kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-young-people/dealing-with-cyber-bullying/staying-safe-on-social-media/>

Have an agreement and establish appropriate behaviour

The behavioural boundaries and sanctions you set for your child should include their use of the internet. You may wish to consider the following:

Set time limits for your child's internet use

Social media profiles are **set to private**, so only trusted contacts can gain access;

Leave phones, tablets etc downstairs at night.

Only accept friend requests from, or communicate with people they know;

Personal contact details are not given out over the internet;

Never meet anyone in person from the internet without an accompanying adult;

Let them know they can come to you for help with any problem.

There are also apps to help young people overcome chatting problems.



Send This Instead

The Send This Instead app has been developed to help children combat **sexting** from peers. The app gives a range of optional images with humorous messages so that children can send these as a response to sexting, putting them back in control.

Zipit

Made by ChildLine, Zipit aims to help teenagers deal with difficult sexting and flirting situations. The app offers humorous comebacks, advice, and aims to help teenagers stay in control of flirting when chatting.

“ZIPIT”

Remember, if you or your child is concerned around issues on social media, please do get in touch, or look at the school website – Safeguarding – Advice and Support, and click on the relevant icons where you will find useful advice.

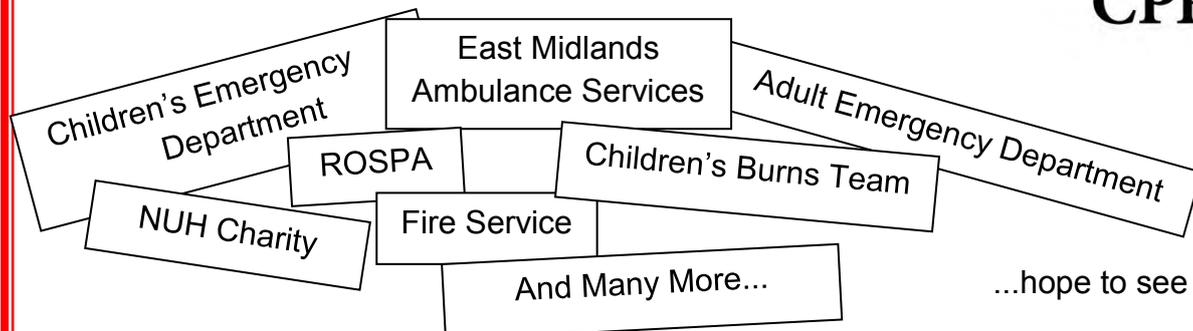
Helen Carnell

CPR Marathon

23rd October 2017

Smithy Row, Nottingham

Health promotion event teaching CPR to the public with activities throughout the day for children and young people...



...hope to see you there!

Diary Dates: October—December 2017

30th October
School Re-Opens

31st October
SEND 'Meet the Team' Evening

7th November
Year 13 Senior Maths Challenge
Year 10 & 11 Thorntons Trip

13th - 17th November
Anti-Bullying Week

15th November
London Lion King Trip
Year 10 INTO Film Festival
Year 12 Work Experience Info Evening

16th November
Year 11 Skills Show

21st November
Bright Day

22nd November
KS4 Careers Info Evening for Parents

23rd November
Year 9 Ambition Nottingham

1st December
Year 13th Senior Maths Kangaroo

6th December
Year 12 Intervention Evening

6th - 8th December
Lille Trip

11th-22nd December
Year 11 Mock Exams

12th December
KS3 Tomorrow's Engineers Energy Quest
Year 9 Progress Evening

14th December
Year 7 Pantomime Trip

15th December
Year 10 Mini Factory Trip

19th December
Winter Concert

22nd December
Break Up For Christmas Holidays

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