



The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Newsletter

November 2020



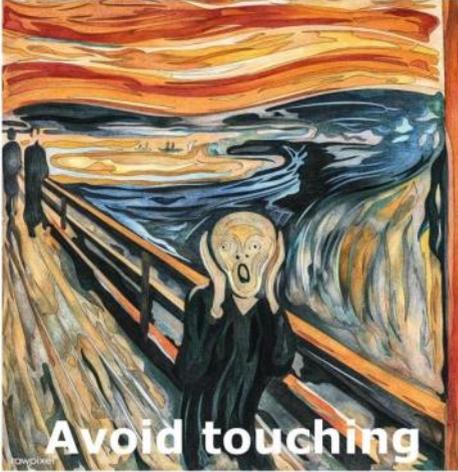
**Making music,
making musicians**





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Stay Safe!

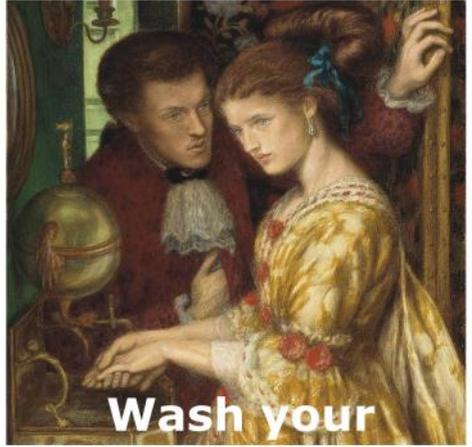


**Avoid touching
your face**



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Stay Safe!



**Wash your
hands often**



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Stay Safe!

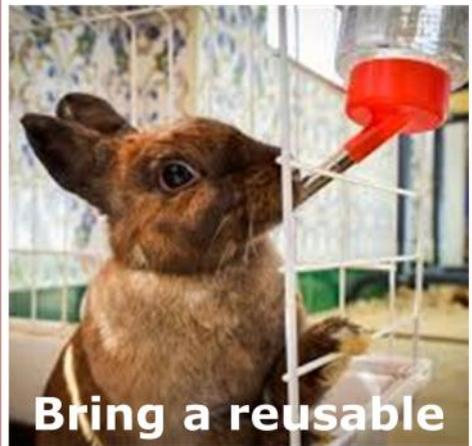


**Wear a mask
outside the
classroom**



The Radclyffe School
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Stay Safe!



**Bring a reusable
water bottle**

Water fountains not in use

Responding to our 'new normal'

Autumn term as we haven't known it before

As this first half term comes to an end, students and staff are getting used to a very different way of doing school from what we have known before.

First things first, we would like to thank everyone for how you have responded to the new requirements that we have had to introduce; the divide between the red and blue sides of the school, one-way systems, revised timetables, the need to wear a face covering in communal areas, to socially distance wherever possible and regularly wash our hands.

Teaching and learning has been very different with each year group being taught in their 'bubble', for the most part based on a single corridor. As you will imagine this has created a huge challenge of organisation to ensure students and their teachers are in the correct room at the correct time. We are making every effort to keep all students and staff as safe as possible throughout the school day.

It is unavoidable however, given the presence of Covid-19 in the wider community that students and staff will from time to time show symptoms and test positive. When this happens, we have a robust system in place to trace everyone who has been in contact with them, with a need to self-isolate to prevent the infection spreading. We would like to thank parents for your understanding and co-operation, we know that this places big demands on you.

Sadly, there are many things we enjoy as part of the school experience that aren't possible this term. Visits out of school, competitive sport in Oldham and beyond, and many other extra-curricular activities cannot take place, and we are sorry that students are having to miss out. Despite this, we are trying to make the school experience as enjoyable and engaging as possible in these difficult circumstances.

Free breakfasts feed Year 7s' hungry minds

Cereals and bagels available

Students in Year 7 at The Radclyffe School are being encouraged to start the day with a healthy breakfast.

The school has joined forces with national charity Family Action to provide free breakfast cereals, together with New York style bagels, to the 300 students who joined the Chadderton secondary this autumn.

The project aims to ensure that all students are starting the school having eaten breakfast. Research has shown that children who eat breakfast before school are more likely to achieve well academically. Eating breakfast can give students the energy to concentrate better at school, and studies have also indicated a link between eating breakfast and staying healthy.

As a result of Covid-19 restrictions the school has arranged for students to collect a week's supply of their breakfasts each Friday.

Year 7 Year Manager Heather Hunt said, "We are delighted to be able to provide the breakfasts for our students. I'm looking forward to finding out from our students which fillings they choose to put in their bagels."

She added, "As a school we want to take every step possible to support students' learning. Not starting the day hungry can help students do well throughout the day."

If the programme proves a success, we expect to extend it to other year groups.

The Radclyffe School has been chosen to take part in the National School Breakfast programme as we are in one of the Department for Education's opportunity areas. The breakfasts are funded by the government, and ensure that all children who need it can access breakfast.

Research backs benefits of breakfast

Children eating breakfast regularly has been found to:

- improve how the brain works, particularly memory, attention, and carrying out tasks
- boost academic performance, including school grades and achievement test scores
- improve behaviour in the classroom

New Student Leadership team

Results awaited!

A little later than usual, congratulations to all the Year 11 students who have been appointed to the new Student Leadership team.

The process of selecting prefects this year began in May during lockdown. From 89 applicants the sixty-strong team was appointed, completing their forms to say why they deserved to be considered. They answered the questions 'Why do you want to be a member of SLT?' and 'Why would you make a good member of SLT?' All the successful prefects were invited to apply for a place on Student Leadership Team.

In recent weeks each of the students who applied have recorded their pledge video, assisted by the school's VTLE Team. Uploaded onto the FROG learning platform, the short film has been watched hundreds of times, by students and staff making their minds up who to vote for.

The number of applicants has enabled the school to appoint everyone to a role on the new team. So it is our pleasure to announce the new team as follows:

Head Girl: Tanima Ali

Head Boy: Nazim Miah

Deputy Head Girls: Tamanna Reza and Kelly Chow

Deputy Head Boys: Sam O'Neil and Tayeb Ali

High Achievers Ambassadors: Yawar Zaidi and Sadia Akhter

Transition Ambassadors: Marjana Sultana and Dhanyal Hussain

Curriculum Ambassadors: Aafina Khan & Faisal Sajjad

Leavers Committee: Cara Bourne, Umaiya Begum, Gloria Dadzie, Fahima Khatun and Baaz Khan

Congratulations to the whole team!



Making music, making musicians

Students learning new skills

For many of our new Year 7 students the idea of learning a musical instrument was something they had never come across before. After their first half term at The Radclyffe School, particularly in the unusual circumstances they have faced, their experience of playing either a trumpet or a violin has been greatly encouraging.

The school is proud to be working with the Music in Secondary Schools Trust who have put together a plan as part of students' regular music lessons. We are one of only two schools outside London, and the first in the north of England to be taking part. Learning in small groups introduces the students to playing their instrument, and quickly develops their technique. Already for some students their ability is starting to develop well.

Taking part in such a high profile project (the programme is backed by Andrew Lloyd-Webber) will give our students some incredible future opportunities. They will perform at a top London concert venue, which in the past have included the London Palladium and the Royal Albert Hall. Some students will also take part in a three-day residential workshop at Radley Hall in Oxfordshire.



We are grateful for parents' support as the students make progress through this year. Please continue to encourage your child to practice at home and to remember to bring their instrument into school on the days when they have their lesson. The programme is about more than just creating musicians, positive as that is. Taking part has been shown to have a positive impact on progress across the school, helping them engage in learning and improving behaviour.

James' lockdown story unlocks a prize

Living through Lockdown

Making good use of the time at home during lockdown, Year 9 student James Walsh wrote a story for Gallery Oldham's 'Living through Lockdown' writing competition.

We are delighted to say that James' entry won second place in the Key Stage 3 category. James, a keen reader, was presented with a £20 Waterstones voucher and certificate by Headteacher Mr Clegg.

Mr Clegg said, "We are very proud of James' achievement putting his time to good use and contributing to what will be an important project for the borough as a whole."

Awarding the prize, Karen Rose, Assistant Director Children's Services at Oldham Council wrote, "The quality and consideration of the entries was fantastic, and we're delighted to be partnering with Oldham Gallery and Libraries who will be archiving the work as part of the Borrow Box project, and the lockdown museum at Gallery Oldham.

Information at the touch of a button

Download the MyEd app

Have you downloaded the MyEd app yet?

This app allows you to view information and keep up to date with what's going on at The Radclyffe School. You can view key activity about what your child is doing at school.



If you need to get in touch with school, or we need to contact you, this also offers a free and convenient service.

Anything you need to know, from attendance to achievements, and any forms you might need to fill in, can all be done through the app. If you need to know important dates, the latest school news or announcements, it's all here.

Whether your phone is Apple, Android or something else, simply go to your app store, search for MyEd and download the app.

Discovering your new school

Virtual Open Evening

Students and teachers at The Radclyffe School were delighted to invite prospective new students, and their parents and carers to our special online Open Evening.

Introducing our outstanding school to Year 6 was very different this year, as they could visit us from the comfort of their own home. All faculties were busy creating lots of interesting and informative content to show off how we ensure our students enjoy an excellent education and an awesome experience.

The 'Open Evening' went live on the evening of Wednesday 30th September. Visitors were able to ask questions via Facebook, and of course, having the information online lets pupils and their families come back as often as they wished.

An interactive map took visitors directly to helpful content from each of the teaching faculties in school, as well as interesting features around our modern, well-equipped and award-winning building.

Welcoming all our online visitors, Headteacher Mr Cregg said, "This event needs to be very different this year but I am delighted to welcome you to our Virtual Open Evening to see for yourself the purposeful learning environment evident in each of our faculties and subject areas. This online opportunity will demonstrate the broad range of opportunities your child will enjoy, both within the regular curriculum and as part of our extensive extra-curricular offer."



Have you activated your account?

Pay for everything on ParentPay

The Radclyffe School is now 100% cashless. This means anything you previously may have brought money to school for, including school meals, trips, locker deposits, stationery and items of uniform will have to be paid for online, not with cash or cheques.

All payments will be processed using our cashless payment partner, ParentPay. ParentPay is an easy to use online platform that enables you to take control. Instead of sending money into school you can keep your child's account topped up from the comfort of your sofa.



If your child is on Free School Meals you will be able to check your child's account, and see exactly what they are buying and when.

To get started you should have received an activation letter to enable you to set up your ParentPay account. This letter contains a personal activation username and password to get you logged in. You can then change your username and password to something easier to remember. You can also merge your accounts if you have more than once child at The Radclyffe School. ParentPay offers a highly secure payment site, showing you a record of all transactions and all items available for payment. A receipt of your payment is emailed to you after each transaction.

You can make payments whenever and wherever you like. You no longer need to find cash or write a cheque. You will have the peace of mind that your payment has gone through, safely and securely, and promptly so you can budget with confidence. Payments for some trips can be made in instalments, helping to spread the cost.

ParentPay will also make things easier for the school, reducing the time spent on banking and providing accurate records of payments. Where refunds are necessary, such as for leavers whose account is in credit, these can be made onto the payment card used. Communication about payments between parents and the school will also become easier.

If you have not yet registered for ParentPay then you need to get in touch with us as soon as possible. We will then send out your login details to ParentPay. To request a login for please contact us via the [MyEd app](#), by email on parentpay@theradcliffeschool.co.uk or by phone on 0161 622 3200.

PE kit in lessons

Changing room closure leads to uniform change

Since the return to school, the safety restrictions that the school has had to put in place has meant that students have not been able to use the changing rooms for PE lessons.

Head of PE Mr Mellor said, "We appreciate that doing PE in their uniform is not ideal for students, which is why we took the decision to allow students to come into school in their PE kit on those days when they had a PE lesson. On these days students are able to wear their PE uniform in other lessons, with certain restrictions."

Thank you for all your efforts to ensure students are coming to school with the correct uniform and equipment. For a simple reminder of what students should and should not be wearing, The Radclyffe School PE kit consists of:

- a red Radclyffe School polo shirt or t-shirt
- A black Radclyffe School tracksuit top or sweat top
- plain black shorts or tracksuit bottoms
- plain black sports leggings (for girls)
- trainers

The school's uniform policy says the students are not allowed to wear hooded tops or clothing with large or offensive logos. Students must not wear high top trainers, basketball boots or plimsolls.

In other lessons, on the days they have PE, students need to wear their blazer over the top of the PE kit. If students choose to wear shorts in their PE lesson, they must wear tracksuit bottoms over them.



Making a meal of break and lunchtime

Café Mojo for fine food and drinks

Every day our student restaurant Café Mojo provides hundreds of high quality hot meals for students, as well as snacks and drinks. The cost of a 'Meal of the Day' deal this year is £3.

Free School Meals

Claim if you are entitled

For many families for whom the cost is a barrier, the right to free school meals is an important benefit that should be taken up wherever possible.

Oldham Council have advised us of changes in how to apply for free school meals. The process is a simple one but is now only available online. Follow the link to

www.oldham.gov.uk/fsm

The coronavirus pandemic has left many families facing a more difficult financial situations than before. The worry is that more children will be left facing hunger because parents and carers are struggling financially and aren't aware of what they are eligible to claim.

Please note that you do not need to apply for free school meals if you already receive Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction. You will need to apply if you feel you are eligible and are not receiving either benefit. An example of this could be a parent who still lives with their own parents and as a result doesn't claim Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction.

Please note, students who live within the Manchester City Council area but attend an Oldham School can also apply online.

If you live outside the borough (except Manchester) and your child goes to an Oldham school. Then you will need to apply through your local council in the area where you live.



Protecting your child's mental health

This feature was first published November 2017.

We hope it might be helpful again today

Did you know one in ten children in the UK suffer from a clinically significant mental health illness. But three quarters don't get the professional treatment they need. Could your child be one of them?

More frequent exams and workload increasing mean your child might be at risk of mental health problems. Anxiety and depression are becoming more common. Sadly, this is not matched by the support available; children reluctant to confide in parents and parents slow to help, despite quick intervention and support being crucial to recovery.

So here is a guide, from a child's perspective on how to handle it.

Identify the issue

Mental illness can often be hard to define; your child might not recognise the onset signs themselves. Typical symptoms can vary from difficulty concentrating to severe weight loss. Other symptoms can include: mood changes, intense feelings, behaviour changes, sudden changes in sleep habits (from too much sleep to none at all), loss of appetite or even self harm. If you are worried about your child, the best thing to do is ask them yourself; nothing is more important than openness when dealing with such important issues. If your child chooses not to talk about it, you may be able to ask their close friends - or even teachers - to see if they too have noticed changes in their wellbeing in a negative way.

Recognise that mental illness is a disease

Knowing and remembering this is vital for your child's rehabilitation; often, young people find it difficult to confide in parents, in case they are not taken seriously. Just as you would not tell someone with arthritis to "shake it off", you do not tell your child, dealing with a pressing issue and who has chosen to confide in you to simply "pull yourself together". All mental disorders are diseases and as important as observable ones. Such comments only belittle the authenticity of disorders can harm the trust your child has placed in you.

Do not take it lightly

For some parents, sensitive subjects are something they might not feel equipped enough to deal with, so it becomes a discussion for one afternoon, that is never mention it again. Even if your child's disposition takes a change for the better, subjects such as these shouldn't be left alone; regular re-evaluations & conversations should take place just to see how your child is doing. Often, your child will expect you to be the one who brings up the subject.

Even if you don't feel ready to address such fragile situations, giving it your best sympathetic, understanding go is the best you can do. Talking regularly is vital for healthy relationship and a healthy mind.

Find the right help

Seeking professional, medical help is necessary. This can often seem daunting but it's the opposite. If something breaks, you don't leave it to rest and expect it to mend itself; you do whatever is needed to recover. The NHS offers many services from psychotherapy to prescriptions for anti-depressants, most of which require referrals from a GP. In the case that your child does not feel comfortable with your presence while discussing such matters, GP's can talk to them one-on-one.

Schools provide mental health services too. Learning mentors, are trained to handle these kind of situations. If your child feels overwhelmed or unstable in school, they can go see the Learning Mentors team.

It is worth knowing that confidentiality laws vary between GP's and teachers, since teachers are required to contact as soon as they discover issues and the chance they might be life threatening, while GPs aren't required to inform you of what has been specifically discussed between your child and them (unless your child chooses to or they are potentially life threatening).

Remember: it's not your fault, but it is your responsibility

It can be physically & emotionally exhausting to deal with anyone's wellbeing, never mind someone you see each day. However, you must remember not to see it as something that is happening due to some kind of failure in you, or as a sign of poor parenting. Mental disorders are caused by varieties of factors, from the environment to biological ones.

Additionally, your child's disorder must not be treated as a burden or as some kind of incompetence. You can help in everyday life by doing little things like: paying attention to their feeling & discussing them; by recognising & praising even small accomplishments; by being more flexible in difficult times & generally treating them in a loving manner where they don't feel patronised.

These are just a few ways to deal with whatever mental disorder your child might be facing; for more information, you can visit the NHS site dedicated to mental health, or contact your local surgery.

Written & Compiled by former Head Girl Sarah Nazir. Thanks also to Sharmin Rahman, Quratulain Channa & Josh Yates for contributing.

The Five Respects

Speak Respectfully



The Five Respects: Our Rights, Our Responsibilities.  The Radclyffe School
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Behave Respectfully



The Five Respects: Our Rights, Our Responsibilities.  The Radclyffe School
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Respect School Environment



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Respect your own learning



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Respect the learning of others



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Thank you for your patience!

Attendance issues

The successful reopening of schools this autumn was always going to depend on an ability to 'test and trace' where anyone has started to show symptoms of Covid-19. As the new school year has progressed we have been able to adapt the measures we are taking in school to protect everyone, both students and staff.

We would like then to say thank all our parents and carers for your patience and cooperation when it has been necessary to ask small groups of students to self-isolate for up to two weeks to impede the spread of the virus. We know you will appreciate how dangerous the virus can be, and how important it is to follow the national rules.

When students are needing to remain at home, we will ensure that they have work to complete while at home, whether in printed work packs or through FROG, our online learning platform.

From the archives...

Three years ago

Making the news in school in November 2017:

- The Eco-team's new ideas gave a boost to recycling, encouraging the collection of paper, batteries and plastic bottles
- Students created their own news bulletin under the direction of BBC reporter Nina Warhurst
- The British Values team hosted a tea party, which raised funds to support the charity Water Aid

Six years' ago

and in 2014...

- A former student who finished top of her class in her Medicine degree at University of Manchester returned to inspire students.
- Students tackled a shortened performance of Shakespeare's Hamlet, as part of the national Shakespeare for Schools festival.
- We unveiled the artwork decorates the English corridor. Students ideas were created by artist Kate Ealy cover the themes of Science Fiction, Romance, Comedy, Horror and Action.

Hunt Lane, Chadderton, Oldham, OL9 0LS
Tel: 0161 622 3200 Fax: 0161 633 2183
www.theradclyffeschool.co.uk

