



The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Newsletter

January 2021



**If it's good
enough for
our bee...**



Drama created

GCSE and BTEC examined in a practical way

You might think that final exams arrive in the summer, and for most subjects you would be right. But for the groups studying Drama, part of their final assessment has already arrived.

Students have two options for Drama, GCSE or BTEC. During this term students on both paths created and performed pieces of drama they had devised themselves. They work as a 'theatre company of actors, directors and designers - of lighting, sound, costume and set).

In the GCSE course, students also rehearse and perform two extracts from a play, as well as studying the job roles in the performing arts industry and analysing a piece of theatre.

The BTEC qualification is very similar, allowing students to explore the performing arts, develop the skills and techniques of actors and designers, together with performing to a brief.

Head of Drama, Mrs Taberham said, "Students should consider Drama as an option if they enjoy the process of creating drama, they enjoy exploring issues of interest to young people through drama, or if they have an interest in theatre production. There are many transferable skills too that our students find they make stronger. Performing and producing can build self-confidence and independence, as well as strengths in problem solving, team building and communication."

The restrictions of Covid-19 have limited some opportunities in this past year, but students taking both courses have shown imagination and creativity to produce excellent work.

Drama can certainly be a worthwhile option to study at Key Stage 4.



Students' introduced to Engineering virtually

STEM Days uncover the circular economy

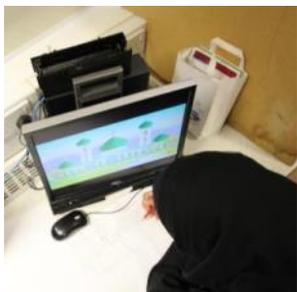
Linking live with Structural Engineers from global construction company Arup, and all brought together by the Engineering Development Trust, students from Year 9 gained a valuable insight to the engineering world.

After an introduction where students heard about the career paths that can lead into a massive variety of job roles, they took part in a workshop based around the idea of the 'circular economy' - where everything is focused on sustainability, and reducing, reusing and recycling materials used in our built environment.

The young people took the chance to question Chandan and Selina, both Structural Engineers based in Arup's Leeds office. They found out about their university routes into Engineering, and the projects they have worked on for the company including the transpennine railway between Manchester and Leeds, building the City of Manchester (now the Etihad) Stadium, and revamping Manchester's Central Library.



Chandan shared how she had taken part in an Engineering Awareness Week at the age of 16, which had sparked her interest in the whole field of engineering.



In the workshop the students learned more about how a circular economy works, then took on a series of challenges to design their own sustainable building. They thought about the building's specification, how it would be used and by whom, then created their final designs.

Their creations were shared, virtually with the experts from Arup who were impressed with their imagination and creativity.

The STEM Days for Year 9 aim to help students think about future education and career paths. During the Spring term this year students in this year group will choose their options for Key Stage 4; English, Maths and Science remain mandatory, but students will choose up to four other options. In March we will have Options Evenings to give students and parents a flavour of the subjects on offer.

News in brief

The new Year brings a new approach to reading in KS3.

Students can start each lesson with silent reading, after a successful pilot project with Year 7 students. Look out for new reading books coming home at the end of this term.

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Have you enjoyed the Radflicks learning suggestions that our teachers have found this term? We will have more in 2021. Why not share any learning resources you have found in lockdown?

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Students in KS3 have been earning special badges for mastering assessments and for following the Five Respects. Colourful arrows add to the badge as students complete each area; Textiles, Product Design and Food and Nutrition.



Upstanders not Bystanders

Anti-Bullying Week

What role can you play in reducing bullying? This was the question asked of all our students earlier this term, reminding everyone that it is everyone's responsibility to tackle this problem when it arises.

We want to encourage all students to report any incidents they see so problems can be properly dealt with. This year more than ever we have seen the positive power we can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge.

Tackling bullying is no different. Bullying can have long lasting effects, but acting together we can reduce it. The message of Anti-Bullying Week this year is that we are all a piece in the puzzle and can overcome it if we are united against bullying.



In the video that students watched, young people gave a powerful message that it's not acceptable to stand by and tolerate bullying behaviour, it needs to be challenged and tackled.

"We've all had them moments, when you join in on the joke, like the comment, called names, whispered, not spoken to someone 'cause no one else does. Sometimes it just goes too far, sometime we just let it happen. It may have been your friends who did those things, but that doesn't make it OK."

Bullying is not OK.

Building relationships the key to success

Achievement for All

Young people's success at school might depend on many things, but a strong relationship between a student, their parents and staff in school is certainly one of them. When a student has additional needs, this relationship becomes even more vital.

It is just over ten years since The Radclyffe School was chosen to be involved in a pilot programme aimed at helping those caring for children at home to engage with the people caring for them at school. Due to run for two years, Achievement for All was such a success that we decided to carry on with it.

By taking part in Achievement for All, everyone involved in caring for the student gets to share knowledge and better understand the young person's needs and ambitions, what they like and don't like. Staff from throughout the school are involved, strengthening the links between school and home. Year Manager Mrs Longley is one of them.



"When I meet with parents and students as part of AfA, the child is at the centre. Talking with them, we aim to build their self esteem, getting them to talk about themselves. This might be more of a challenge with younger students but older year groups are much more willing to open up."

"It's a great way to help students discuss issues they are facing, and helps school find the best ways to help students to learn."

Home School Liaison Abdul Shahid added, "The chance to spend more time with families is an important part of the project, allowing staff to explain at greater length what parents need to know. In turn it builds parents' confidence to see how the school is helping their child."

Throughout the last decade we have seen many students build their confidence, strengthen their attitude to learning, and in some cases help to control their behaviour as they know their parents are aware and well informed.

We're looking forward to continuing to build strong relationships with families so all our students develop as confident and capable individuals.

Christmas Jumper Day

Supporting Save the Children

Thank you to students and staff who wore their Christmas jumpers and to everyone who gave generously to support Save the Children.

We managed to raise £320 for this worthwhile cause. There were winners for the best Christmas jumper in each year group, so congratulations to:

Year 7 winners Max Wylezol, Ajwa Fatima, Harrison Stancer

Year 8 winners Charlie Jenkner, Tristan Weaver, Rahman Khan

Year 9 winners Damion Austin, William Smith, Arooba Minhas and Haiden Wright

Year 10 winners everyone in a jumper won chocolate!

Year 11 winners Gloria Dadzie and Blake Lewis

Staff winners Mr Bashforth, Mrs Ellis, Miss Khatun, Miss Goode, Mrs Teale, Mrs M Jones, and Mr Carey





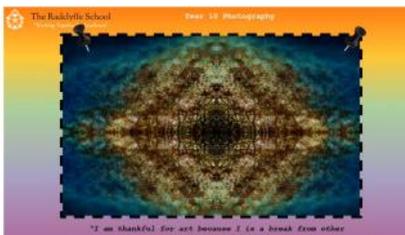
Virtually fabulous SPA Celebration

The show must go on-line

Our immensely talented students in the SPA faculty were not going to let a little thing like a global pandemic prevent them from showcasing their performing skills this term. Our SPA Celebration Evening went ahead courtesy of video and web technology - with the advantage that it remains available to view from the comfort of your home.

Visit <https://theradclyffeschool.co.uk/spa-celebration-evening-2020/> to watch the presentation for yourself.

Congratulations to all our musicians, dancers, singers, photographers, artists, actors and sports players. You continue to make the school PROUD!



Award for Careers Advice and Guidance

Quality in Careers Standard retained

We recognise that education is about much more than learning a body of knowledge; it is also about preparing our students for life after school, and ensuring they are aware of all the opportunities and pathways they might take once they have left our school.

This term saw 'Workplace Opportunities Week' take centre stage in school. Students found out about destinations that they might choose including pathways into higher education, the different levels of apprenticeships as well as the whole range of fascinating careers they might follow.

With Careers Guidance in school and online, and lots of experiences for learning across all year groups, students can be confident of being well prepared for a successful future. One important development is a Careers Champion in each faculty - we asked what our champions think of their role, and how their subjects prepare students for their next steps in education and for the world of work.

Mrs Hall, Champion for ICT said, "For me, being Careers Champion for Computer Science and Business Studies is about showing the great opportunities there are, not only in our area, but country wide. You can go anywhere with these subjects."

Mr Jenkins, Champion for Maths added, "As a Careers Champion, we emphasise how important Maths is in enabling students to problem solve and reach their own convictions, as it is objective and logical. It quickens our minds and helps us to think when we are faced with complex problems."

And Miss Smith, Champion for Humanities said, "Often when we learn topics in a classroom it can feel very academic and it's difficult to understand how this knowledge would be used in the real world. Student access to employers allows the curriculum to come alive. Humanities-related careers can really vary, from town planning to archaeology, to working for national charities or in jobs our students may not even have heard of.

Over recent years we have consistently achieved the 'Inspiring IAG Gold Award for the quality of our careers information, advice and guidance. This requires regular assessment so that we keep our standards high. We are delighted to announce that the school has been further recognised with the award for another three years.

From the Archives

Three years' ago

This was what was making the news in school at Christmas 2017

- Students' fundraising efforts brought in more than £1000 for the BBC's Children in Need
- Nine Business Studies students had a successful sales day at Manchester's popular Christmas Markets
- Introducing the PiXL Edge qualification enabled students to build new skills in leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication.



Five years ago

And in the final months of 2015...

- Britain's Got Talent stars, 'Twist & Pulse' led a dance workshop inspiring students to choose Dance as an option at Key Stage 4
- Students visited Bolton School to be wowed by the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Flash Bang Show'
- December saw Ofsted inspectors in school who judged us to be Outstanding in all areas!



Seven years ago

As 2013 drew to a close...

- Snakes and spiders came to school, so students could learn about them in the most 'hands on' way possible
- Judo Olympian Sophie Cox shared her skills with students, coaching and inspiring them to reach their goals and achieve the very best they can
- We celebrated 'Doctor Who Day' - the 50th anniversary of the show, with our author-in-residence Mark Wright and a real (well, nearly) Dalek



Simple Rules inspire Great Behaviour

Speak
Respectfully



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.  The Radclyffe School
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Behave
Respectfully



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.  The Radclyffe School
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Respect
School
Environment



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.  The Radclyffe School
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Respect your
own learning



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Respect the
learning of
others



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.  The Radclyffe School
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Caring for our own, and others' mental health

Find the help you need

We might all need some help and support to look after our mental health at this time. It goes without saying that the past year has been a hugely stressful period for everyone.

In school we have been taking action to protect the mental health and wellbeing of all our students and staff, through some incredibly challenging circumstances. If you are feeling the strain too at this time, we hope the following sources of help might be useful to you.

For people in work, here are [five ways to care for yourself](#).

The [Anna Freud charity offers useful advice](#) for students, for parents and carers and for other groups.

[Kooth.com](#) is an excellent online wellbeing community that offers free, safe and anonymous support.



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

