

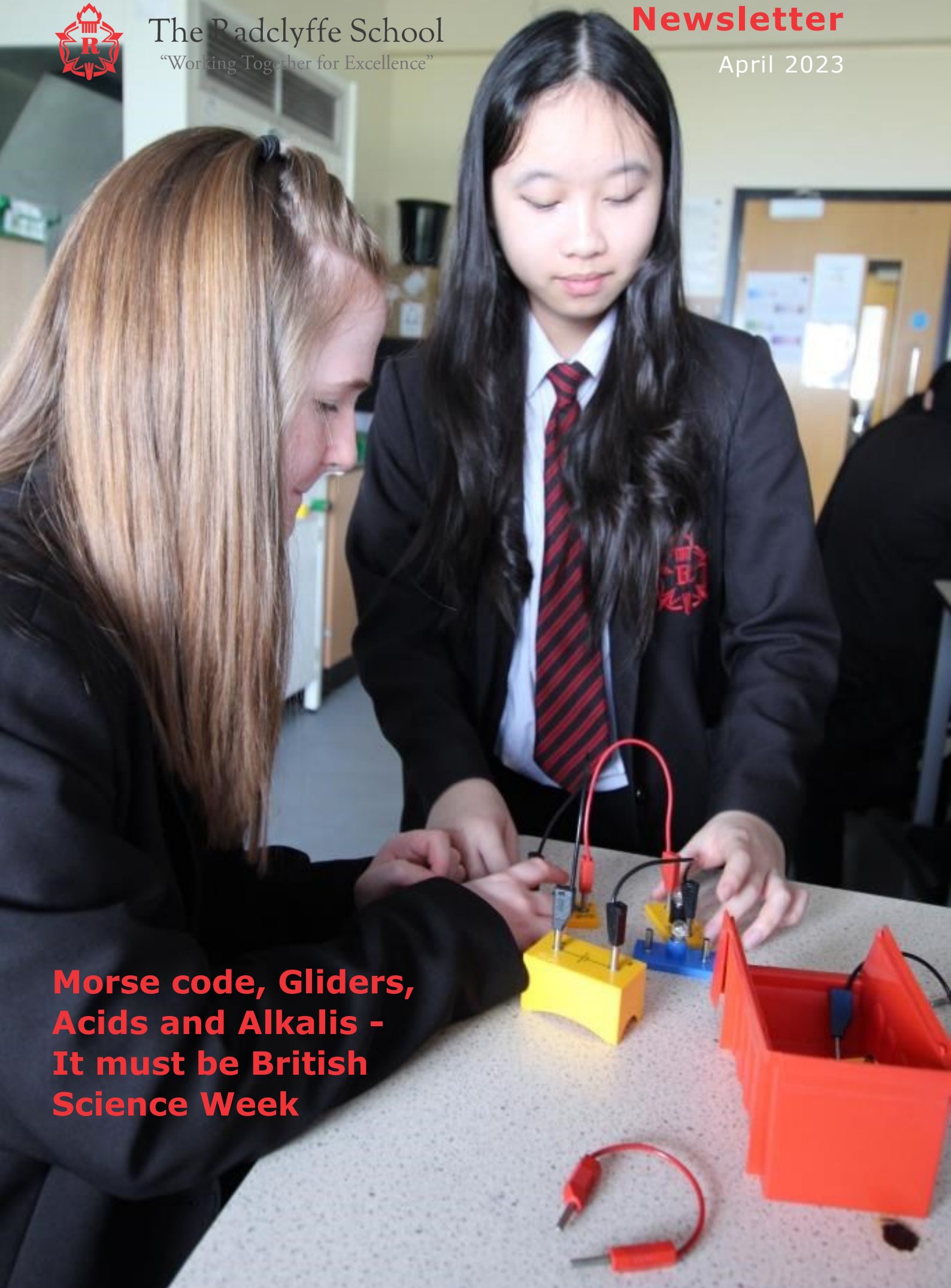


The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Newsletter

April 2023

**Morse code, Gliders,
Acids and Alkalis -
It must be British
Science Week**



Excitement in Experiment

British Science Week

The chance to experience practical science experiments from the fields of physics, chemistry and biology helped students in Year 7 to celebrate British Science Week, a national celebration of science, raising awareness of its importance in everyday life.

Glider designs, messages in Morse code and testing for acids and alkalis taught the students interesting lessons about 'Connections', the theme of this year's event.

Through the week the students learned about the forces of flight, building gliders with paper, straws and skewers, and exhibiting strong lift and little drag.

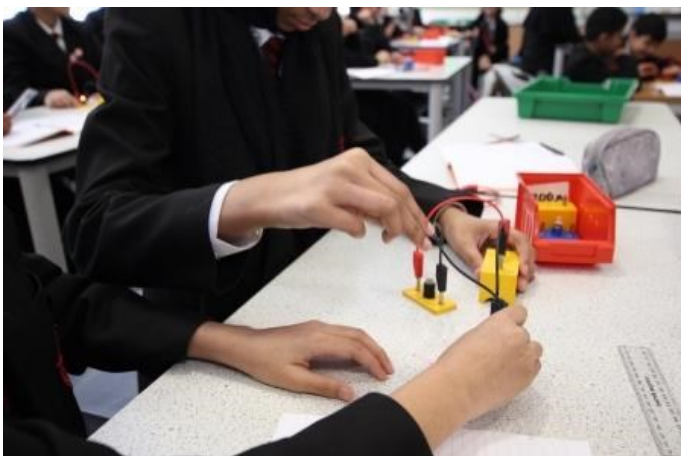
They created electrical circuits to enable them to send messages in Morse code, matching the circuit symbols for bulbs, switches, batteries and the ammeter.

Finally students used red cabbage to create an indicator to test a range of household substances - were they acidic, alkaline, or neutral?

A final challenge for students during the week and beyond was to combine their science interest with artistic flair, and create their own posters to promote science. The winning students will be travelling later in the year to Manchester Metropolitan University. In one of the university laboratories they will find out how to make aspirin.

The students also learnt about the amazing careers available in science - from marine biologists to toxicologists, astronomers to pharmacists.

Promoting a love of, and involvement in science is the aim of British Science Week. It celebrates the achievements and potential of science, technology, engineering and maths, and is organised by the British Science Association.



Students take a look at successful futures

National Careers Week

It's often said that finding a job, and building a successful career, is a job in itself. For students in all year groups then, it is important to give them every opportunity to discover the amazing range of careers that are available to them.

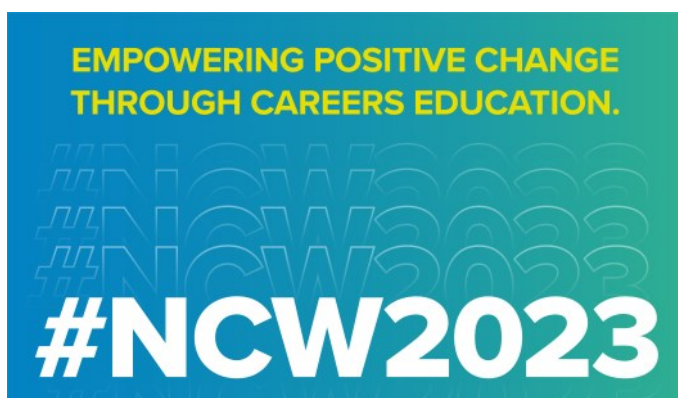
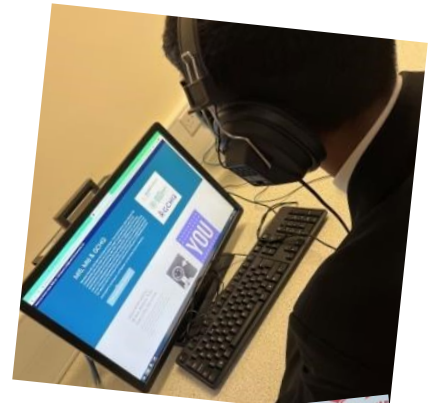
National Careers Week once again provided the focus to share the experience of people working in the jobs that our students might be filling in years to come. Virtual Careers Fairs linked students with employers, to discover the qualifications they will need for a range of different jobs, but also having the right talents and motivation.

Careers in medicine can be so much more than just nurses and doctors. Students in KS3 were taken through a lesson with Medical Mavericks, who run workshops to inspire young people to careers in the NHS. Getting hands on experience of well-known and less familiar medical procedures was a fun introduction to a vital area of work.

Elsewhere in the week, the chances of rewarding careers in the growing hospitality sector were explored by Year 9 students with an industry taster day at Manchester College. The feedback from students was positive - Anisha Rahman said, "I had so much fun as I learnt how to cook, got to meet famous chefs, and met a rapper from Manchester all in one day." Saif Uddin added, "It was fun to explore the food industry, it had many interesting opportunities I had not thought of. I also enjoyed trying all the different food."

Our morning PLG meetings were taken over by live Q&A online discussions with major public sector bodies across Greater Manchester - Fire & Rescue, the Police, Transport and Health. Careers Week follows hot on the heels of National Apprenticeships Week, and students discovered how valuable the apprenticeship route is becoming to widen entry to satisfying employment for many people.

The message that it's never too early to start thinking about careers was visible all around the school, with many teaching and support staff sharing their own career journeys that have led them to The Radclyffe School.



Students feel the heat in the kitchen

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Hours of painstaking preparation saw Food P&N students prepare mouth-watering meals for a discerning clientele – our members of staff.

Over two days the students prepared 44 three-course meals, together with side dishes, and served their finished creations in a specially created pop-up restaurant.

As part of their final assessment the students had to plan, cook, plate and serve the meals, working against the clock.

With the event carrying more than half the marks towards their final result, the students were assessed on their cooking skills, but also on teamwork, hygiene and safety and their planning.

Students came up with their ideas for the themes, which they 'pitched' within the team to decide what they would be.

On each day, preparation and cooking began at 9am, with the finished dishes needing to be ready for 12 noon.

Teacher of Food and Nutrition Miss Berry said, "Preparing and serving so many superb meals against the clock is challenging, and the students did so well. The experience that students gain equips them well to consider careers in the catering industry."



A Day of Dramatic Devising

Drama workshop

Students in Years 9 and 10 shared a drama workshop aimed at equipping them to create their own pieces of drama, in ways that were more out of the ordinary, and let them make good use of their imagination.

The day was aimed at helping current GCSE students to share with their younger peers what is involved with Drama at Key Stage 4, as well as strengthening their own skills in the subject as they will need to create their own pieces as part of the qualification.

The students were led by an actor from theatre company Paper Birds, and explored themes that were more abstract and metaphorical than typical linear stories. They were inspired by the experience of an African-American child, Ruby Bridges, who was one of the first to attend a mixed school. The students wrote their own four line dialogues.



Seeking our former students' inspiring career stories

The Radclyffe School Alumni Network

At The Radclyffe School we are building an alumni community to inspire our students.

We are delighted to announce that The Radclyffe School is working with the education charity Future First to build a thriving alumni community. Amongst our former students is a host of talented role models who we want to connect with in order to celebrate their success and inspire our current students. Alumni would be invited back to offer careers and education advice, mentor students, provide work experience placements and much more besides.

Please help us reach out to our former students using your own networks. From doctors to dancers, pilots to plumbers, we need alumni from a range of careers to open our students' eyes to what's possible.

If you are a former student or know of anyone who'd like to stay in touch and support our current students at The Radclyffe School, ask them to sign up at:

<https://www.futurefirsthub.org.uk/register/radclyffe>

Or scan the QR code opposite.

We are looking forward to hearing your stories.

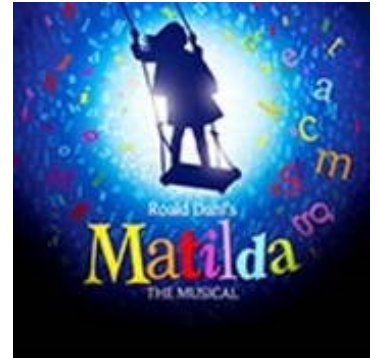


Summer

Matilda cast

Even as the summer show was announced, excitement has started to build ahead of the performances in July. A busy rehearsal schedule is already underway, and we are looking forward to sharing the students' dramatic talents with you.

The show will be Matilda the Musical, based on the hugely popular story by Roald Dahl. With music and lyrics by Tim Minchin, it's the story of a gifted girl who loves reading, overcomes obstacles caused by her family and school, and helps her teacher to reclaim her life!



Congratulations to the cast

Matilda Wormwood	Jessica Wolstenholme
Mrs Wormwood	Esme Lomas
Mr Wormwood	Evie Lang
Michael Wormwood	Elisha Davies
Miss Trunchbull	Jaime Clough
Miss Honey	Phoebe Hammond
Mrs Phelps &	Amelia Anderson
Mrs Whelps	Rebecca Hendrick
Escapologist & Acrobat	Amanda Luste, Sadie Sherratt-Jones
Rudolpho	Liam Hunter
Lavender	Summer Prescott
Bruce	Olivia Bryer
Hortensia	Alicia Eze
Erica	Ayla Polat
Nigel	Jordan Shodipo
Amanda	Sophie Kalhoven
Alice	Bethany Kalhoven
Tommy	Aiden Loynes

The production is always a 'whole school' event, with great support from staff and from former students coming back to school to help out backstage. Thank you to everyone who went for a role.

Watch out for information soon about how to get tickets for the show, which will be performed on Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th July 2023.

Show celebrates the best of Performing Arts

SPA Xplosion!

Many congratulations to all our performers in this term's SPA Xplosion, a cornucopia of dance, drama, music, art, and photography. There were performances to suit all tastes - from K-Pop dance to an orchestral performance of Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de St Georges from the MiSST orchestra. From solo musicians to the Drama Club performing scenes from Annie and Matilda. Head of SPA Mr Corrigan said, "It was a real celebration of how far we have come in the last three years to get back on stage, and as ever our students went above and beyond to put on an exceptional show."

Choices needed for Key Stage 4

Year 9 Options Evening

One of the first big decisions students face at The Radclyffe School is in Year 9, as options are chosen for GCSE in Key Stage 4. Thank you to students and parents for taking the time to attend the Year 9 Options Evening earlier this month.

The sessions guided students to the best choices for their future, choosing subjects that they enjoy, that they think they will do well in. and if they have a future career in mind, that might help them in that field. Options forms must be completed and returned by **Thursday 20th April**. All students study English, Maths and Science through to Year 11, alongside Core PE and Personal Development.

Students must choose four options, one from each of four options blocks in their options booklet. Everyone must choose at least one of Geography, History, French and Computer Science. Students will find out early in May which subjects they will study when they enter Year 10 in September.

The choice of subjects we provide offers a broad range of both academic and vocational courses. All of the subjects available are both challenging and rigorous, and provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to progress further.

Language learning unlocks opportunity

MFL MUFC trips



Do you know how many languages are spoken by the players at Manchester United? In the current first team mens' squad it is at least nine. This fascinating fact and many more was discovered by students who visited Old Trafford for a day discovering the importance of learning another language to English.

The students (whoever they support) were treated to a visit to the Manchester United museum and a tour of the Old Trafford stadium.

News in Brief

Students in all year groups have been making good use of the offer of extra tutoring to help them to catch up with learning they may have got behind with.

Tutors are making us aware of the amazing forward strides that our young people are making, with improvements in Maths or English.

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High achieving students in Year 11 are benefiting from taking part in the Varsity Academy, run by Oldham Sixth Form.


The sessions, which have brought together students from schools across Oldham, boosted knowledge in Maths, Science, English and the Humanities.


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One thing that goes very well with a good book is a tasty cake. On World Book Day our Book and Cake Sale helped to raise £274 for Springhill Hospice.

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Follow us on social media

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 @theradclyffe

 /radclyffeschool

Time to celebrate Reading and Storytelling

World Book Day

"The more you read, the more things you'll know. The more things you learn, the more places you'll go."
- Dr Seuss

It is in this spirit that we celebrate World Book Day each year, a chance to enjoy reading, to discover new books to read, to find out what we enjoy reading.

A busy day of activity in school saw prize competitions, the chance to listen to favourite stories, and to share our own favourite book. Not to mention the site of dozens of famous book characters wandering around school.

Posters of masked readers around the building tested students, with clues in the titles of the books the readers were enjoying. And reading leads to writing, so students were invited to write their own stories, again with the promise of prizes for the very best.

Students favourite reads added to the sense of sharing, written on leaves and on display in school.

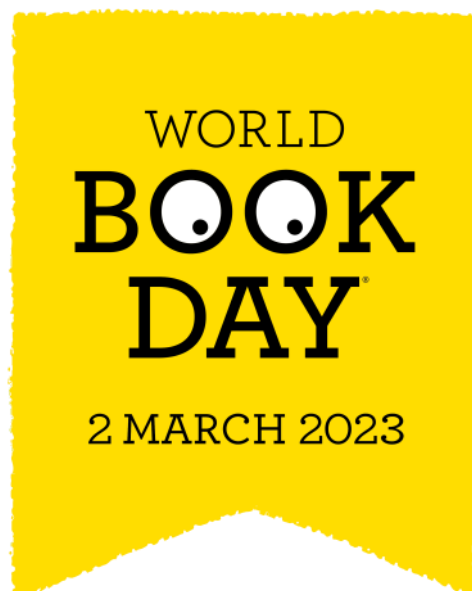
So what good is reading? It does more than just help us to learn about the world around us. It's good for our health, too.

Studies show that it can increase our emotional intelligence as we understand a range of perspectives and motivations.

There is some evidence that mental stimulation is one of the factors that can delay the onset of dementia and reading is among the activities that can help to keep the brain active. It is far from a passive pastime. When we read we create mental simulations of the activities, sights and sounds of scenes in a story, blending these with our own memories and experiences, all of which stimulates the neural pathways.

As well as this, research suggests that reading for 30 minutes a week increases health and wellbeing. Reading for pleasure has been found to improve our confidence and self-esteem, providing the grounding we need to pursue our goals and make life decisions. It can also aid our sleep and reduce feelings of loneliness.

To the onlooker, reading can appear to be a solitary and passive activity. But the simple act of picking up a book can do us a world of good.



For everyone taking part in Readathon, we hope you are enjoying reading.

To let you read even more, we have extended the deadline.

Please submit sponsor cards and money by Friday 21st April.

READ TO RECHARGE

Reading is vital for wellbeing - offering entertainment, escape and a much-needed screen break!

READ TO CONNECT

Readathon is a great way to share experiences and reach goals, whether in school or at home.

READ TO KEEP UP

Research has shown that reading for pleasure helps you to be more successful.

READ TO HELP OTHERS

Reading and raising money to buy books for children in hospital feels great!



readforgood.org



Registered charity 1120269 (England & Wales) and SC041024 (Scotland). Read for Good®, Readathon® and Track My Read® are registered trademarks. Read for Good is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

Making a start to get the garden growing

RHS Big Seed Sow

In a quiet corner of the school grounds something is budding. The Legacy Garden is a dedicated area for learning about nature and about growing plants. It boasts a greenhouse and potting shed, raised planters and wildlife pond.

Revived since the pandemic, the area provides a wonderful opportunity for students to learn in a very hands-on way.



Since the start of January, Year 9 Nurture Group have spent a lesson each week in the garden. They have sown broad beans, alpine strawberries, tomatoes, peppers, and chillies; earlier this month they sowed flowers and planted some flower bulbs. We have been delighted to see that the broad beans have sprouted and will be ready to plant out in April.

As Spring continues we are inviting more students to get involved in the work of the garden, as part of

the Royal Horticultural Society's Big Seed Sow. This will link us to a community of schools and other groups across the UK, who are coming together to sow and share seeds.

We will share more of the garden's success as the plants begin to bloom with the arrival of summer!



The **Holiday Activities and Food programme**

(HAF) is a government initiative that aims to provide healthy food and enriching activities during school holidays, primarily to children and young people aged 5 to 16 who are eligible for free school meals. It is funded by the Department for Education (DfE).

There is also a selection of activities and events that children who don't qualify for free school meals can enjoy too, as well as younger and older children in the family. To find out more visit the [What's On Oldham website](#)

Brilliant Book Characters celebrate World Book Day

Can you recognise the characters from children's fiction and more, that inspired our staff to get into costume for World Book Day?



After-school challenges make learning fun

Focus on Lego club

Throughout the school there is an ever growing offer of exciting extra curricular activities for students to enjoy.

One new club that has launched this year is Lego Club. Meeting after school on Monday afternoons. Students are given a new design challenge each week. So far this year they have been tasked to build something that looks like food, the tallest tower, a house, a mythical creature and a labyrinth maze.

In the session they have the opportunity to engage with a challenge and see who can create the best model by the end of the time.

Teacher of Design & Technology, Miss Robinson said, "This enrichment opportunity is really important as students are able to develop their creativity and modelling skills and to feel like they are in a safe environment to do so. It is also an opportunity for students to build friendships with other young people across year group, with a shared interest."



Please encourage your child to seek out the opportunities in extra curricular activity. There is something for all interests and all the clubs help students to develop skills and abilities that can prove valuable for many years into the future.

News in Brief

All students will have received an email to their school address to invite them to answer a wide ranging survey of their opinions of aspects of school life. Please do encourage your children to hare their opinions to guide how we improve the school for the future.

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Five year 10 enterprise and marketing students travelled to Manchester University for the Stock Market Challenge. This event, run by the Alliance Business school, saw our students buying and selling shares in a real time environment. The team had no knowledge previously of how the stock market works until the event yet performed strongly.

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As we celebrated Comic Relief in school, we also marked Sport Relief with a staff v students netball match, which raised £84 for the charity.

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Summer opportunities for a walk to school

Five minute bubbles

Spring is here, and summer can't be far behind. With better weather, why not take advantage and allow your child to walk some or all of the way to school.

This is the idea behind our 'Five minute bubbles' campaign. With so many cars parking and waiting on Hunt Lane at the start and end of the school day, problems of congestion, pollution and road safety increase.

There are immense dangers, especially to children, from poor air quality. The fumes created by cars and other vehicles are a toxic mix of dozens of pollutants including benzene, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and millions of particles.

The most direct health effect of traffic fumes can be increased difficulty in breathing. Studies have shown that traffic pollution directly affects the airways, causing irritation, coughing, wheezing, and triggering asthma attacks.

But did you know that regular exposure to car engine emissions can cause damage to the heart and brain?



The good news is there are simple things we can do to reduce this threat. If you are waiting on Hunt Lane, turn off your engine while parked. This will improve the quality of air for our neighbours, our students and for you. Thanks you for your cooperation.

Can you save money on travel, and more...?

i-go and Our Pass

Whether it's travelling to school or making other journeys, getting about on public transport is a convenient way of getting around. For children aged 11 to 16, they need to have an i-go card to travel using any child ticket on buses in Greater Manchester.

To qualify, young people must be a permanent resident, or go to school in Greater Manchester. An i-go card cost £10 and lasts until 31st August after your child's 16th birthday. The card allows children to travel using child tickets on buses and trams.

For more information including how to apply for an i-go pass visit the [Transport for Greater Manchester website](#)

The savings don't stop when young people reach 16 however. Our Pass offers eligible 16-18-year-olds free bus travel on most local bus services across Greater Manchester, making it easier to access education, work, training, culture and leisure in the city-region. Our Pass also provides access to a range of exclusive offers, discounts and experiences for 16-18-year-olds in Greater Manchester - known as 'Exclusives'.

Again, you can find out more information and apply for an [Our Pass on the website](#)

Exams are coming for all year groups

Top tips for inspiring revising

The GCSE summer exams begin on Monday 15th May with the first Religious Studies paper and continue until the final Portuguese writing exam on Wednesday 21st June. Our Year 11 students have been preparing with revision sessions at lunchtimes and after school.

In practical subjects such as Art and Food Preparation & Nutrition, some final exams have already taken place. Pre-Public Exams for students in Year 10 get underway soon after the Easter holiday, and internal end of year exams for Years 7-9 will take place in classrooms.

Revision is of huge importance for all students, so here are some of our best tips for revising.

- **Create a revision timetable**

This can add structure to your revision and help identify where you need to do the most work.

- **Take regular study breaks**

When you feel stressed or tired, take a break, take time to relax, you may benefit from taking some exercise to get refreshed.

- **Use mind maps to connect ideas**

Mind mapping can help you memorise information, making associations by connecting ideas easily and quickly.

- **Understand your learning style**

Are you a visual learner, a listener, a reader or a kinaesthetic learner? Practice will show the best time of day for you to work too.

- **Collaborate with classmates**

If you can work with friends that you trust, sharing notes and building your understanding together might help

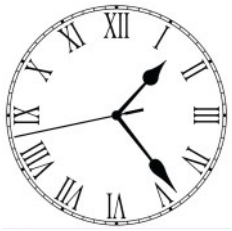
- **Adapt your style for different subjects**

Different subjects might require different methods - flashcards, for instance in languages or science, online quizzes in Maths.

To all students preparing for their exams, every success with your revision and with your exams!

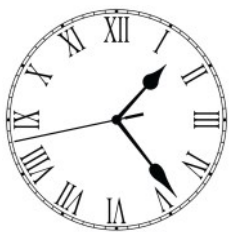


Every Minute Counts



Each morning (8.30am)

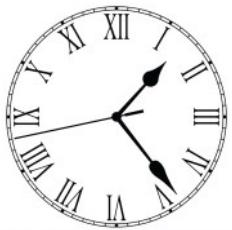
Students, make your way directly to the PLG welcome and well-being session, taking the quickest way and without stopping on the Street.



At Lunch and Break:

If you are outside, you should move on the whistle and make your way directly to classrooms, at this point the toilets are out of use. We expect all students to be outside their classrooms when the bell sounds.

Students on the Street, move when asked first time and use the quickest route to your lesson, once again being outside your classroom when the bell sounds.



Lesson Changeover:

Students, make your way **directly** to your next lesson.

Every late will be recorded, and parents will be informed on the day.



Getting to know

Miss Prince, Literary Support Assistant

What is your role in school?

Literacy Support Assistant

Have you worked in other jobs before The Radclyffe School?

I previously worked for 16 years in the NHS. Starting out at Booth Hall Children's Hospital, and then Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. My role was to organise the smooth running of Paediatric Neurology, Paediatric Neurosurgery and Paediatric Respiratory clinics within the outpatients department.



What do you like most about your job?

I enjoy the interaction with students and love to see the progress students have made.

What achievement are you most proud of?

My three children

What is the best piece of advice you could give to students in Year 11?

Study hard and try your best without allowing yourself to become overwhelmed. Ask for help if needed do not struggle through

Reusing uniform to cut waste and save money

Uniform Exchange

Thanks to the generosity of parents we have a large supply of 'preloved' items of school uniform, and these are free to collect for anyone who can make good use of them.

From blazers, trousers and skirts in a variety of sizes, to shirts, coats and even shoes, there is plenty to choose from. Items of The Radclyffe School PE kit - shorts, leggings, trainers and PE tops - can also be collected.

All donated items are cleaned before being offered for collection. We know that the cost of school uniform can be a problem, so any steps we can take to help will take the pressure off.

Business Manager Mr Davies said, "We are all facing increasing financial pressures at the moment, so it makes sense to get the best use out of all items of uniform, especially as students grow and need to replace clothes that no longer fit them."

Every year hundreds of tonnes of used clothing ends up in general waste, so if we can make even a small dent in this, it is worth trying. If you have items of uniform that your child has grown out of, we will be delighted to receive them - there is a 'drop-off' box in Visitors' Reception where you can leave any items.

We are very grateful to everyone who has donated items, both used and new.

Look out for news in the summer term of dates when all the uniform will be available in school for you to browse through and take what you need.

Taking a look back

March 2020 - Students get longer with broader curriculum

A three year Key Stage 3 will enable students to enjoy the breadth of subjects offered at school for an extra year, as changes are made in school this autumn.

In recent months we have taken another look at how the school delivers the curriculum at The Radclyffe School. Students undertake a five year 'Learning Journey' up to Year 11, and it is our priority to discover how we can best support them to achieve their full potential as they reach their examinations at the end of that time.

Senior leaders, working with faculty and subject leaders and other staff have looked at national advice and guidance on best practice so we can provide the best education for your children.



March 2017 - Students' virtual adventures



Science lessons gave students the chance to explore different parts of the world this term, but they didn't need to leave the building.

The Year 7 students worked with staff from Google Expeditions, donning virtual reality headsets to view and learn about new landscapes.

Throughout the day the different groups visited destinations chosen by the teacher. These included the Taj Mahal, the Great Wall of China, beneath the sea around the Galapagos islands and even into space. The teacher controls the destination from a tablet computer, taking the whole class to the destination.

March 2014 - Maths mural shows artistic ability

Our Maths Faculty will soon be home to a colourful, creative maths Mural. As well as cheering up the walls, we hope the mural will stimulate students to think more about maths.

A group of Year 8 mathematicians provided the ideas behind the mural. Working with artist Rich Roberts of Spearfish Arts, they explored ideas about how maths is important in everyday life.

To create the images the students used specialist art materials, learnt to use spray painting techniques and designed images on computers.

