



The Radclyffe School  
"Working Together for Excellence"

**Newsletter**

June 2023



**Celebrating our diversity  
of cultures**



## **New Prefects receive their ties**

### ***Team takes up their duties***

Congratulations to our Year 10 students who have been successful in their application to become prefects at The Radclyffe School in the coming year. They will now be allocated to the twelve faculties and other departments around the school where they will take on a variety of roles and responsibilities.

The process of becoming a Prefect helps students to develop important skills. They begin by completing an online application form, answering set questions just as they might for applying for a job or for college. It's their chance to explain why they should be chosen - this might include areas where they have taken responsibility either in school or elsewhere. In their role, prefects support a particular faculty or department in school and the students are able to choose which one they will be involved with.

In order to be considered for the role of Prefect, students must have a very good attendance level, have a strong attitude to learning and have exhibited very good behaviour consistently through the year.

We have been able to appoint a team of 40 prefects, who will take up their responsibilities in June, as the current Year 11 students leave after their GCSE exams.

Look out for details in the next newsletter of our new Student Leaders - and changes on their way to how the team works.



## **Calling all our former students**

### ***Alumni project***

We are delighted to announce that The Radclyffe School is once again working with the education charity Future First to build our own 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 will be invited to come back to school to offer careers and education advice, to mentor students, provide work experience placements and much more besides. We need you. Please take a look at the alumni page on the school website.

Please help us reach out to 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 would like to stay in touch and support our current students at The Radclyffe School, ask them to sign up at:

[futurefirsthub.org.uk/register/Radclyffe](https://futurefirsthub.org.uk/register/Radclyffe)



## Adi takes culinary talent to the final

### **Rotary Club Young Chef competition**

A Year 8 student from The Radclyffe School will represent Oldham at the regional final of the Rotary Club Young Chef competition.

Adi Yusuf won his place as he finished third in a district heat, held at the school earlier this term. The final will take place at Hope Academy in Newton-le-Willows in June.

Students had two hours to prepare a three-course meal, working within a budget and being judged not only on how the food they prepared tastes but also on planning, hygiene, presentation, and healthy eating. The competition is judged by industry professionals, enables the young people to develop their food presentation skills and gain experience in high pressure situations.

Adi's menu involved a lettuce, cheese and egg roll, Napoleon chicken with basmati rice, and a caramel egg pudding with a strawberry garnish.

Year Manager Miss Hunt said, "The school is delighted to host the competition and welcome representatives from Rotary Clubs in Oldham. It is always an enjoyable event, with a very high standard of cooking from all the young people. We are very proud that Adi has made it through to the final."

The competition, open to young people from around the country is being held on a regional basis this year as extra-curricular events continue to recover from the pandemic.



### **Rugby coaching gets a professional touch**

We were delighted to welcome into school Darren Grafton, who is a professional rugby league coach.



Darren worked with a group of Year 10 students and will be returning later this term to coach younger year groups too.

The opportunity has been made possible by a partnership between Oldham Sixth Form College and the Leeds Rhinos Academy. The coaching sessions were then offered to Oldham secondary schools. Raising interest in the sport among our students could lead to us playing competitive games against other schools



# Students learn the university way

## Gateways visit

Are you a procrastinator? This simple question was the starting point for an interesting day at the university of Manchester for one group of students. The event was the latest in a group of annual visits introducing students to university life, both on the academic and the social and practical sides.

For anyone studying, procrastination - putting things off until later - can be a problem that prevents learning. The students realised that it can be as much of a problem at KS4 as for university students. Those at the university, whether undergraduate and postgraduate, shared their techniques and strategies for overcoming the problem. We can share some of their best ideas below.

From a fascinating tour of the campus to an introduction to all the extra activities that are available at university, the day gave our students another helpful insight. It is part of the university's Gateways programme, working to increase access to higher education.

The idea of campaigning as a student is probably not the first thing young people would think of from the undergraduate experience. But that was what they found themselves doing as a finale, finding an issue that they wanted to campaign upon and working out how they would go about it.

For students who are unsure of the benefits of studying at university, or where they might be the first in their family to attend, an early understanding of everything that's involved can be hugely helpful.

Groups from each of our year groups take part in the Gateways programme, with different features of the university experience explored at each event.



## Putting an end to procrastinating

### Top tips from University students

- 1 Reward yourself - Plan small rewards for yourself as you achieve milestones
- 2 Happy place - Avoid distractions that might come up from other issues
- 3 Order tasks - Work out what is urgent and important, and focus on these. Even better, focus on the important but not yet urgent
- 4 Time limit - know how long you will take to finish a task, and rest when you get there
- 5 Five-minute blitz - start every session with a time of getting simple tasks done
- 6 Seize the day - work at the times when you have the most energy
- 7 Unfinished - leave a task unfinished, then when you start again get a quick win by completing that task
- 8 Visualise - Picture what you aim to achieve and getting there will be easier



# Students sample the culture of Europe

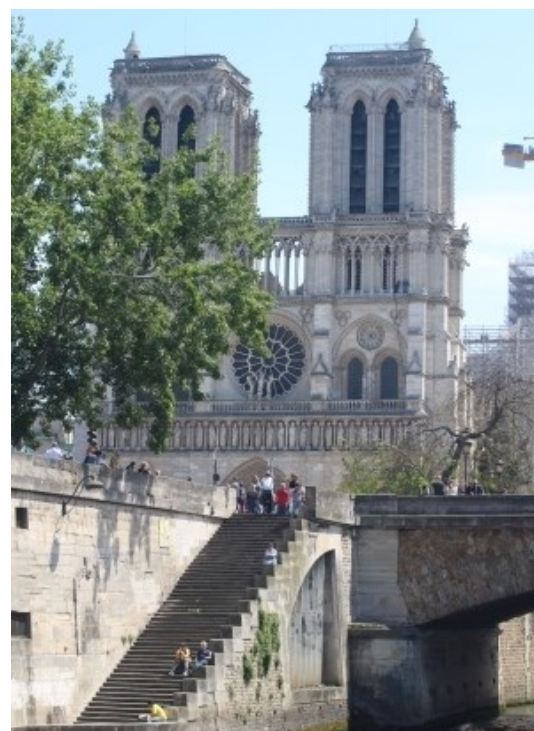
## France visit 2023

"You live a new life for every new language you speak. If you know only one language, you live only once."

Ninety-seven excited students and staff set off for Paris, as we were able to resume overseas visits for the first time since 2019. Our destination was Paris, and the PGL Holidays Chateau de Grande Romaine at Lesigny, on the outskirts of the city.

In Paris students experienced the Eiffel Tower, a boat trip along the Seine, the courtyard of the Musee du Louvre and the Arc de Triomphe. In a complete contrast, a visit to Disneyland Paris provided a chance to let off steam.

For students, especially those visiting another country for the first time the trip was a wonderful experience. Thank you to all the staff who supported the visit and to the students for making the most of the opportunity. You can get a flavour of the experience in the photos on show here.



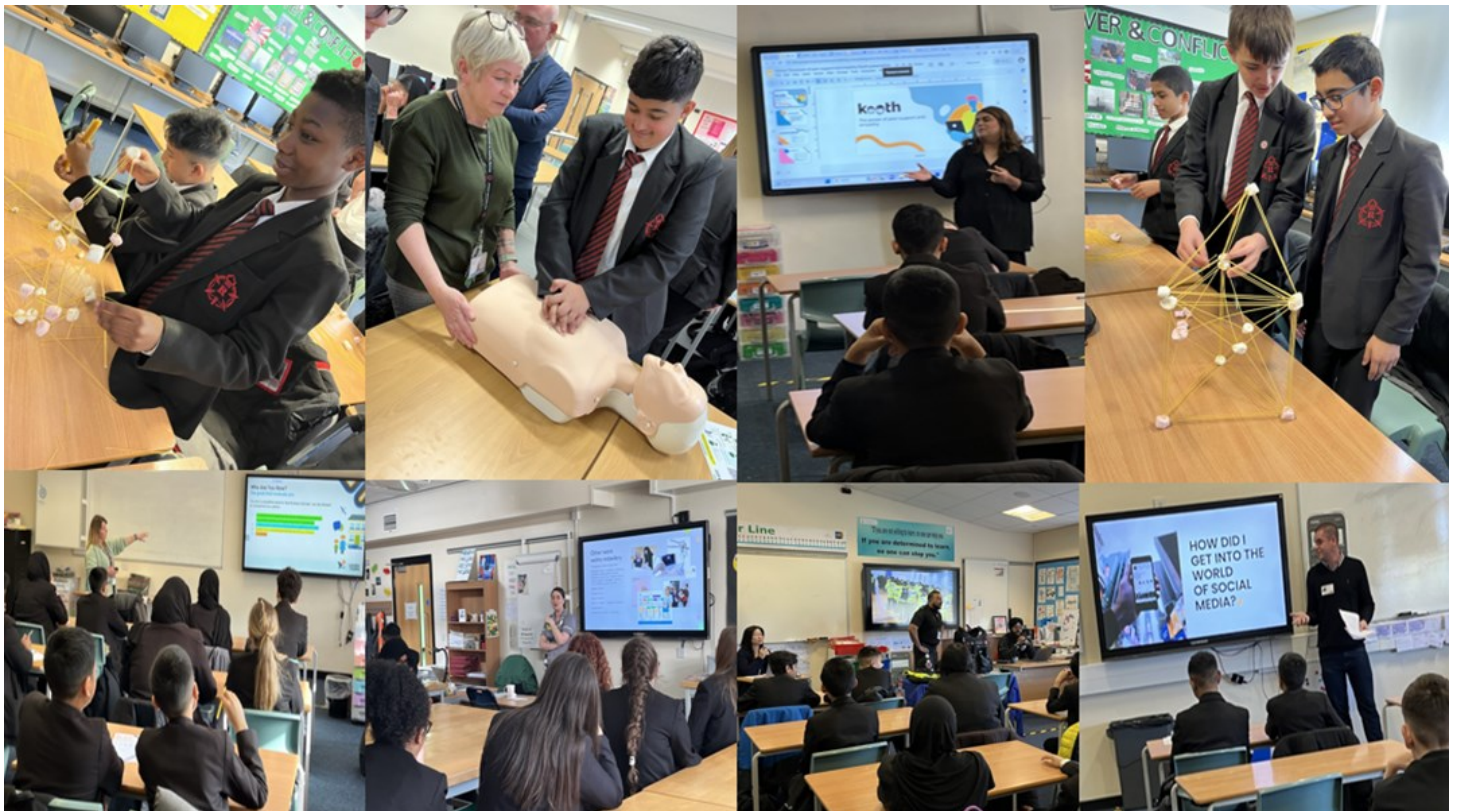


## It's never too early to consider careers

### *Year 8 Industry Day*

"Today was an excellent opportunity to spark inspiration and teach the students that they can achieve anything they want. Students understood the value of how a small act can have a ripple effect on the lives around them."

We have been delighted with the positive comments shared by employers and other organisations who supported our Year 8 Industry Day this term. The event introduced students to the huge choice of career paths, in the public, private and third sectors. A full day of both practical sessions and illustrated talks had been arranged, and students took advantage of what was on offer.



Sabatt from Manchester College said, "The day was very well organized and was engaging for the students. I found it really useful to be able to talk to students about their post-16 options and career choices."

Ashley Walker from Young Enterprise added, "There have been some great conversations around careers alongside some inspiring stories from the young people."

Thank you to all the students who were enthusiastic and ready with interesting questions throughout the day. Abdullah said, "Today was good to learn about something different and think about the future". Jilal added, "I found the day inspiring as it made me think about what difference I can make in the world."

A third Industry Day is planned in June for Year 7. We are always on the lookout for employers and organisations to contribute to the Industry Days, so if your company would be interested, please contact Miss Parkinson on [kparkinson@theradclyffeschool.co.uk](mailto:kparkinson@theradclyffeschool.co.uk)

Our careers provision is offered for all students throughout their school career, tailored to the stage they have reached. From the full year group to individual one to one interviews, every opportunity is covered to help them understand what choices are available, what skills and qualifications are required and how they can acquire them.

## Helping Year 11 to achieve

### *Can we have your old uniform?!*

The final programme of GCSE exams are now well underway, and we wish all our students the best of success in all their exams. With the timetable of exams set externally, and papers in Maths and English taking place after the holiday, we will continue to require Year 11 to attend school for the coming weeks. Support will continue in school to help students be as well prepared as they can be.

Students should continue to wear full school uniform for all of their remaining exams. We reserve the right to refuse entry if students are not dressed appropriately, and parents would be asked to bring uniform items to school.

So finally an appeal. Please would you consider donating any unwanted items of uniform for our Uniform Exchange scheme. We will be collecting items - shirts, blazers, trousers and skirts - after the final full-year group examination on Friday 16th June.

We appreciate they may wish to keep their shirts from the final day!

## Learning lost to minor illness

### *Attendance matters*

Since the start of this school year in September, there has been a large increase in the number of student absences for minor ailments. While we appreciate that it can be a difficult judgement about whether to attend, but more often than not students who may feel poorly at the start of the day will benefit from being at school.

As many as 8255 school days have been lost to illness in the current school year. This has meant students missing as many as 41,260 lessons.

Attending when we are not feeling our best helps students to learn resilience and confidence. This is an issue noticed in schools across the country.

The real cost of these absences is in lost learning. Having a high level of attendance is an important factor in the success at GCSE of our students. Our expectation is that students should be in school for a minimum of 97% of the time, to ensure they achieve their personal best.

Thank you for your support.

## Follow us on social media



/theradclyffeschool



theradclyffe/



radclyffeschool

## News in Brief

Preparations are well underway to meet our new students who will arrive as year 7 this September.

Induction Day, when we welcome the children in to school to experience what a school day at The Radclyffe School is like, takes place on Wednesday 28th June.

An evening for our new parents to find out all they need to know about school is on July

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We were delighted to take 16 of our talented musicians to take part in the 10th anniversary concert for MiSST, the Music in Secondary Schools Trust.

A glittering show at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane featured Jess Gillam, the Kanneh-Mason family and Lord Andrew Lloyd-Webber.

## Culture Day climax of inspiring learning

### *Celebration of culture*

What do we understand by our culture? How do we appreciate the cultures of those around us? These and other questions were explored by students in all year groups as we led up to our first Culture Day.

Each of our Welcome & Wellbeing sessions at the start of each day offered a chance to discover more about culture, and the vital role of equality, diversity and inclusion, whether in school or in wider society.

Thinking about where we belong began with an inspiring film from the University of Manchester, in the form of spoken poetry from staff and students. "I belong in a place where they are wise" was a repeated theme, and is one that we can gladly borrow for school. Just as the university is a diverse community of people from around the world, our community at The Radclyffe School includes people from many different places who have come to Oldham, alongside people born and bred here.

Students also got to watch a short film showing the experiences of young people who have moved to a new school, a new city and even a new country. Looking at the idea of belonging, Lukas from Lithuania said "Belonging means not being alone, it's about being part of something that's bigger than you, that's about being surrounded by people who understand and share something with you."

Others offered good advice on coping with moving to a new situation.

"Use how you are different to inspire others".

"Reach out that new person, just saying hi or how are you, that's really powerful."

"Be kind to each other, there are other people going through similar problems to you."

"The little things make a big difference, a small smile will go a long way."

As the week progressed, students found just how important it is to treat people equally, to celebrate diversity and ensure everyone is included. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is a national priority, so creating understanding from an early stage will have much wider positive effects, aiming to remove prejudice and discrimination.

At The Radclyffe School we believe that cultural education forms an important part of a broad and balance curriculum. All of our students should be able to access an engaging variety of cultural experiences throughout their time at the school.

After learning about where our diversity comes from and the benefits it brings to our lives, we can continue to celebrate difference and appreciate the benefits of diversity here at The Radclyffe School.

The Culture Day was strongly supported by the Student Voice team, from Years 8, 9 and 10, who took responsibility for organizing and performing in the events.





As Culture Day arrived our usual Friday morning Quiz was an opportunity to recap on what we had learned earlier in the week. You can test your knowledge here!

**What does diversity mean?**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 That we are all the same?                                   | 2 That we all have the same beliefs |
| 3 Understanding and respecting that each individual is unique | 4 Not accepting others' differences |

**Which continent has the most languages?**

- |                 |        |          |          |
|-----------------|--------|----------|----------|
| 1 North America | 2 Asia | 3 Africa | 4 Europe |
|-----------------|--------|----------|----------|

**There are nine protected characteristics under the Equality Act. Which of these is not one of them?**

- |        |              |               |       |
|--------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 Race | 2 Disability | 3 Hair Colour | 4 Age |
|--------|--------------|---------------|-------|

(No diversity in the answers - 3 is the correct answer for each of them!)



## Simple steps suggested for overcoming anxiety

### *Mental Health Awareness Week*

Life is stressful, and never more so than during the exam season in school. As important as it is to study and prepare it is also vital to care for our own mental health, and where we can, support those around us.

The theme of this year's Mental Health Awareness Week, which took place earlier last month was anxiety. Living with anxiety can be very difficult but there are steps we can all take that might help.

We've set out some simple tips below, but there is a wealth of information and advice available online and in other places. This information is courtesy of the mental health charity MIND.



- **Talk to someone you trust**

Talking to someone you trust about what's making you anxious could be a relief. It may be that just having someone listen to you and show they care can help in itself. If you aren't able to open up to someone close to you, the [Samaritans](#) and [Anxiety UK](#) both run helplines that you can call to talk to someone.

- **Try to manage your worries**

Anxiety can make it really hard to stop worrying. You might have worries you can't control. Or you might feel like you need to keep worrying because it feels useful – or that bad things might happen if you stop.

Set aside a specific time to focus on your worries – so you can reassure yourself you haven't forgotten to think about them. Some people find it helps to set a timer.

- **Look after your physical health**

Try to get enough sleep. This can give you the energy to cope with difficult feelings and experiences. Think about your diet. Eating regularly and keeping your blood sugar stable can make a difference to your mood and energy levels. Exercise can be really helpful for your mental wellbeing.

- **Try breathing exercises**

Breathing exercises can help you cope and feel more in control. Breathe in slowly through your nose, hold for a few seconds before breathing out slowly through your mouth. Mindfulness can also help with anxiety, as a way of giving your full attention to the current moment.

- **Keep a diary**

It might help to make a note of what happens when you get anxious or have a panic attack. This could help you spot patterns in what triggers these experiences for you, or notice early signs that they are beginning to happen.

You could also make a note of what's going well. Living with anxiety can mean you think a lot about things that worry you or are hard to do. It's important to be kind to yourself and notice the good things too.



## Project creates murals to inspire learning

### Wall Art transformation

When students return from the holiday they will discover something of a transformation on the corridors of the school.

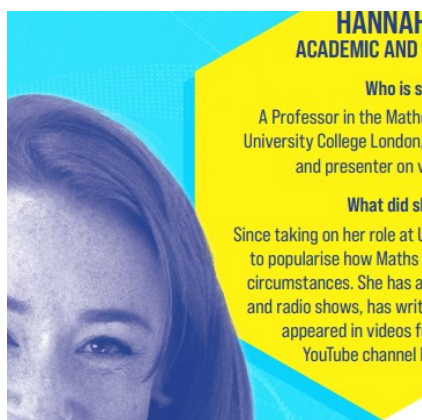
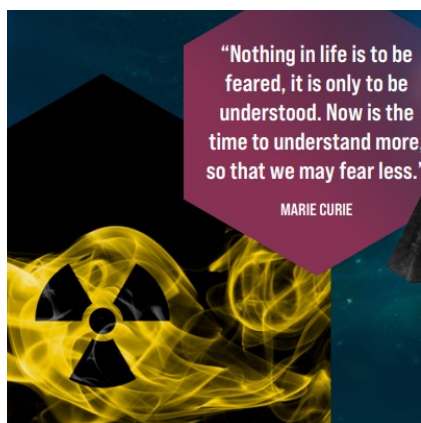
We are installing whole wall murals across eight locations in the building. The content for the bespoke designs have been decided by staff in each faculty and department, and reflects information that students study in the curriculum.

A popular theme was sharing the stories of famous people who have achieved highly in their chosen field. Tying in with our emphasis this term on diversity and inclusion, examples of mathematicians, composers, artists and scientists from across the world and from a variety of backgrounds will remind students that nothing should prevent them from reaching their goals and succeeding.

The Humanities corridor displays a timeline of the whole history of the Earth, bringing together the ideas from Geography, History and Religious Studies, beginning with the formation of the world, and ending with the Day of Judgement!

Needing inspiration to read? The English corridor will feature classic literature titles as well as children and young people's fiction.

The project became possible in response to the removal of lockers from corridors. This left the school with large areas of bare wall space, which in effect became blank canvases for teachers' ideas and the designers' creativity.



## News in Brief

We value all our parents' opinions about how well the school is helping students to learn. Did you know there is a convenient way for parents to have their say about the school? Many of you took the opportunity via the Parent View website to rate the school on its performance.

The views expressed have been very positive across each of 12 questions. You are welcome to give your views at any time.

This helps the school to understand what we are doing well, and be clear on where we can improve,

Reading what current parents experience can also help the parents of pupils in primary school as they decide which schools to apply to.

You can find information on how to register and complete the survey at [parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)

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Have you used the MyEd app yet? A few simple steps will allow you to see up to date information on all aspects of your child's school life. Fill in forms, check attendance or find out achievements. Or get information from school. Download the app for Apple or Android now at

[myedschoolapp.com](http://myedschoolapp.com)



The Radclyffe School  
"Working Together for Excellence"



ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 7pm**

Tickets on sale via ParentPay soon.

Adult £4, Child £3



## Running to get ready for Matilda?

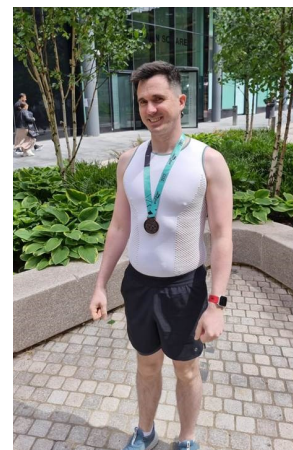
### **Summer Show 2023**

Tickets are now available for our summer show late this term. Rehearsals are well underway for the three performances of Matilda, on Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th July. The show starts at 7pm each evening. Buy yours via ParentPay; tickets are £4 for adults £3 for children.

Staging the shows can be expensive, and it is becoming an established tradition that Head of Music Mr Corrigan combines his devotion to running with his devotion to the show by running the Great Manchester Run. This took place in May and we are delighted to announce that he achieved an admirable time of 2 hours 6 minutes and sixteen seconds for the half marathon course.

If you would like to add to the total, please visit Mr Corrigan's fundraising page at [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/trs-revolting-run](https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/trs-revolting-run)

Mr Corrigan said "Our annual production gives our students the opportunity to perform in a professionally staged musical and work alongside professionals working within the performing arts and theatre industry. We are incredibly proud of the standard of previous productions and we are excited to get these 'Revolting Children' back on stage!



## Asthma danger means aerosols are prohibited

### **Roll on rather than spray, thank you!**

Now that summer is here, we would like to remind you about the risk to health of aerosol deodorants. Amongst the school community a sizeable number of students and staff suffer from asthma. Exposure to aerosol sprays increases the risk of an attack.

For some students, asthma may be triggered by any aerosols. If an aerosol is used, even sprayed some distance away from the person with asthma, the gas propellant can still lead to breathing problems. Also, the chemicals and strong smells in the mist produced by aerosols, when inhaled, can trigger asthma symptoms and a possible attack. These attacks can be very serious.

We are reminding students around school and in assemblies that aerosol sprays are prohibited. Please ensure your child doesn't bring an aerosol to school. If they wish to bring a deodorant for after PE lessons a "roll on" type is a good alternative.

Any aerosol deodorants found in school will be removed and disposed of and spray perfumes will be confiscated for six weeks or until collected by a parent or carer. Thank you for your support with this important issue.



## What's on the menu in our dining room?

### *Good food on offer from Café Mojo*

Every school day, hundreds of healthy, nutritious meals are served in school. Café Mojo is our school dining area, offering a wide choice of healthy, nutritious food and drinks. Our catering provider is Taylor Shaw.

Our modern dining room offers delicious hot and cold food before school, at break and lunchtimes. The Radclyffe School has achieved the '**Healthy Schools Standard**' and healthy and nutritious food and drink is available across the school day.

Prices will be confirmed soon for September, and are likely to see a rise as food costs continue to remain high.

### **Applying for Free School Meals for the first time?**

Students can receive free school meals if their parents receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income (as assessed by HMRC) that does not exceed the current year's level
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment finished, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week.
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7400 (£616.67 per month)

You, as the parent or carer, must receive Child Benefit for the child for whom you are responsible.

Children who receive IS or IBJSA in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals.

You can download application forms from Oldham Council's Website:  
[www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200231/grants\\_and\\_allowances/161/school\\_meals](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200231/grants_and_allowances/161/school_meals)

You can also ring the **Welfare Benefits Team** on 0161 770 6688 from 8am-6pm Monday to Friday and 9am-1pm on Saturday. If you live outside Oldham, you will need to contact your own local council.

### **Students who are entitled to Free School Meals have their Café Mojo Account automatically topped up every day with the value of the "Meal of the Day".**

The Radclyffe School also gets additional funds from the Government for every student who is eligible to receive free school meals. Please help us to get the funds our students are entitled to, to support their education, by applying for Free School Meals if you think you are eligible.



## Working together for Excellence...rewarded!

### **Partnership Awards success**

It has been fifteen years since we opened our current building on Hunt Lane, bringing together on one site what had previously been split across two. The amazing building that we enjoy today is the result of a partnership between the school, the builders Kajima Partnership, Keir who manage the building for us, and Oldham Council. The partnership also includes Failsworth School, built by Kajima at the same time as we were.

Ensuring the building is running smoothly is a complex task, but most of this is not noticed by students from day to day. The effectiveness of the partnership that makes this possible was recognised earlier this term.

Public Private Partnerships represent a vital part of investment in public services. Our partnership was one entrant in the Best Operational Project category at the Partnership Awards. Together with our partners we put together a submission covering all the activities we have worked on. We are delighted to say our bid was the winner of this prestigious award.

Mr Davies, Business Manager at The Radclyffe School said, "The award is deserved recognition of the commitment and excellent work delivered in the past year. Often unseen efforts ensure that our students experience a great education in an outstanding building."

Terrie Bedford, Assistant Asset Manager at Kajima Partnerships Ltd added. "The Best Operational Project category is widely known as the most prestigious and sought-after award. We look forward in continuing and growing this partnership and supporting future initiatives. I am looking forward to presenting the award to The Radclyffe School in the coming weeks."

## Get out and about in Oldham

### **Half term ideas**

Festival Oldham. the annual outdoor arts festival celebrating arts, culture, community, and place returns on Saturday 3rd June. Why not join in with this showcase of the very best local, regional and national street theatre, music, dance and visual arts across a variety of spaces in the town centre.

Explore this years theme of PLAY and be inspired by a programme of accessible, family friendly entertainment and activities with something for everyone. Find out more about what's on at [oldham.gov.uk/festivaloldham](https://oldham.gov.uk/festivaloldham)



Have you discovered Mahdlo? You can book places now on their Holiday Zone activities programme. Whether your child likes to draw and paint in the art area, play football or dodgeball, or spend time crafting gifts to take home, they offer plenty of different daily activities.

Discover the details at [Holiday Zone May 2023 – Mahdlo Youth Zone \(mahdloyz.org\)](https://mahdloyz.org)

## School memories that will last

### *A look back into the archives*

#### **May 2019 - It's all up for debate**

An activity which promotes our students' communication skills and ability to think quickly, that encourages critical and creative thinking. A chance to challenge existing views and open up to new ideas and arguments. These were all on show as The Radclyffe School sent a team to the regional final of the PiXL Up For Debate Challenge, held at the University of Nottingham.



#### **May 2017 - Eco team introduces food waste recycling**



The initiative of three Year 7 students has led to food waste from Food and Nutrition lessons being recycled rather than thrown into landfill.

Across Oldham it's now possible to recycle all cooked and uncooked food waste, and students Muhammad Hassan, Lugman Ahmad and Baaz Khan decided they wanted to ensure that leftovers from their lessons also went to the right place. They have worked with Year 10 Year Manager Mrs Imeson and the Eco Team to bring recycling boxes into the Food and Nutrition classrooms.

#### **June 2015 - Junk Jam is coming**

Our Carnival is coming back this summer and we're not afraid to say it will be a load of junk!

The Junk Jam Carnival is being put together by students in Year 7 and 8 and Manchester-based arts company Bangdrum Arts. This will be our fifth carnival, accompanying the Celebration Evening as the climax of the Summer term.

