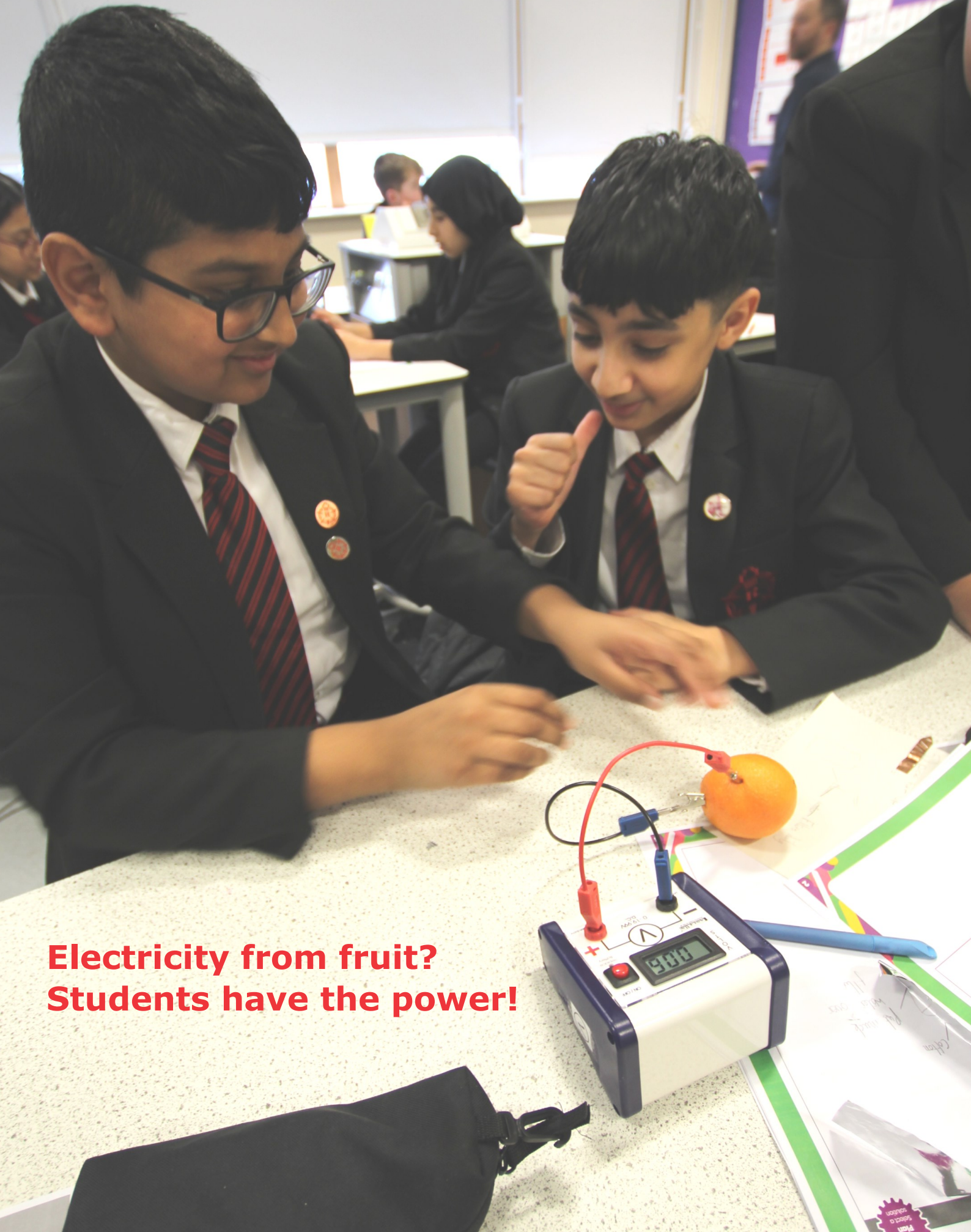




The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Newsletter

March 2023



**Electricity from fruit?
Students have the power!**

Readathon brings big book bonus

Charities gaining from students' reading for pleasure

Imagine if reading for pleasure could help children in hospitals to enjoy a good story. That is just the result we will be seeing as once again students in Years 7, 8 and 9 take part in **Readathon**.

The students will receive a sponsor form during the first week back after the half term break, and will be invited to get reading. They are welcome to read whatever they like, and maybe to explore books they haven't come across before. A checklist with their sponsorship form means they can tick off as many genres as they wish, from science fiction to sports fiction, descriptions of dystopia to poetry.

Their reading doesn't even have to be of fiction. They are welcome to read newspapers and magazines, comics and graphic novels.

The money they raise will provide an even greater choice of books for the school library. It also pays for brand new books and storyteller visits to major children's hospitals across the country, including the Manchester Children's Hospital and the Royal Oldham Hospital.

Sponsoring our students is easy - all students in Year 7, 8 and 9 will receive a sponsor form but it is also possible to sponsor them online by visiting [the Readathon website](#)

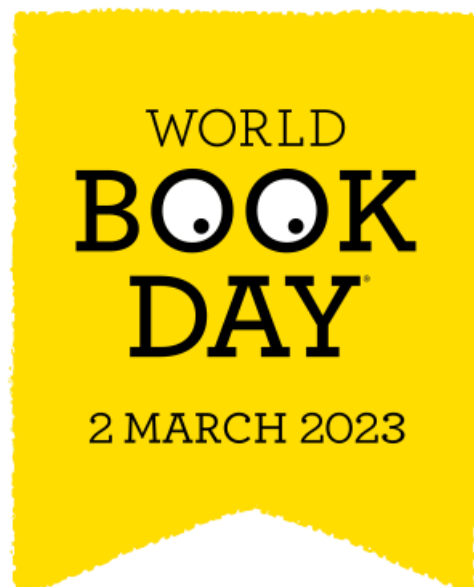


Readathon is all about students having fun and reading on their own terms, in their own time. Please encourage your child to choose whatever they feel like reading - not just books - newspapers, magazines, audio books, or read a book together - it all counts!

Readathon is running in school from Wednesday 1st March to Friday 31st March, during which time we will celebrate World Book Day (Thursday 2nd March) so look out for more information around that after the break!

Looking forward to World Book Day **Celebration of Reading**

It is now well known that young people who choose to read for pleasure regularly are more likely to succeed in all areas of life and recent research carried out by the National Literacy Trust has shown that children who participate in Readathon are more likely to read widely, use the library more and think that reading is cool - what more could we want?!



Students unlock their inner engineer

Y7 STEM workshop

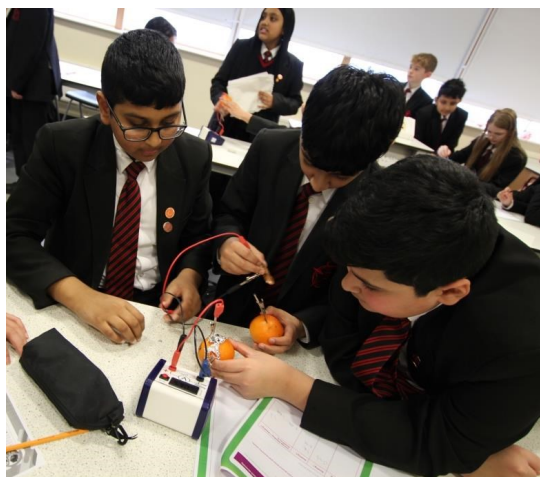
Can you generate energy from fruit? That was a question explored by an intrepid team of students in Year 7 as they took part in an adventure, solving real-life problems against the clock.

Their challenge was to help two walkers, Ruby and Carlotta in the forest. Ruby had fallen and was injured. The students' challenge was to help by creating something that would charge a mobile phone and allow Carlotta to make an emergency call.

The students were equipped with wires, zinc and copper electrodes, aluminium foil, a voltmeter and... an orange. The citric acid provided the charge, which ultimately gave the phone enough power.

In their teams the students also devised a shelter to protect Ruby as she waited to be rescued, and created a system to filter water from a stream so that it was clean enough to clean a wound. They used only the items that were carried in a backpack, or that could be found in the surroundings of the woods.

Teamwork and problem solving are essential skills for engineers in any of the varied fields available. They are of course really useful in many other careers and activities.



The workshop was led by Ben Worth, an engineer from mentoring company Connectr. He introduced the young people to the wide choice of career opportunities that exist in engineering and science.

A pioneer? A designer? A maker, or a humanitarian? The students explored what kind of engineer they would choose to be, with the support of an online quiz. You may like to take the quiz yourself - what type of engineer would you be?

Visit <https://mtfy.org.uk>

Insights abound for a different route to successful futures

National Apprenticeships Week

National Apprenticeships Week gave us the perfect opportunity for students to explore this exciting option for their future careers.

A visit to the UK Apprenticeship Fair enabled students to speak to apprenticeship providers alongside universities and colleges - showing the high quality of training on offer.

Listening to the speakers, events like this give students the information they need to make informed choices about their future. Back at school, our welcome and wellbeing meetings each day saw students join live streamed conversations with successful people from a range of industries in the Greater Manchester city region.



So what is an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships offer an exciting alternative route to getting a job. The young person gets hands on training and the chance to put their skills into practice. There are various levels of apprenticeship on offer - from school leavers, degree level, or even for people learning a new skill or completely changing career.

Apprenticeships are funded from contributions from the government and also from employers. This means that apprentices do not have to pay tuition fees or student loans. They do need to cover their own day-to-day expenses like travel and food costs.

As an apprentice you'll:

- learn and train for a specific job
- get paid and receive holiday leave
- get hands-on experience in a real job
- study for at least 20% of your working hours - usually at a college, university or with a training provider
- complete assessments during and at the end of your apprenticeship
- be on a career path with lots of future potential

By the end of an apprenticeship, you'll have the right skills and knowledge needed for your chosen career. It can take between one and six years to complete an apprenticeship depending on which one you choose, what level it is and your previous experience.

Students discover many ways to find their career

Careers advice in School

Whether our students will enter the world of work at 16, 18, 21 or beyond, it's never too early to start to get an understanding of what is needed. Our students have been busy this term, across all year groups, discovering what they need to succeed, and developing the skills that will empower them to reach their potential.

Day to discover the wide choice of careers

Year 9 Industry Day

Whether our students have firm career plans from an early age, or have no idea yet what they would like to do, we go to great lengths to help them discover the wide choice of career options that are available to them.

There is a constant programme of activity in school throughout the year, and it is never too early to find out about what is needed for a successful future. The spring term marks an important milestone for Year 9 students, as they will soon be choosing the subjects they will study to GCSE. While Maths, English and Science are mandatory, all students will have some level of choice, and their decisions now will go a long way to influencing their options in the future.

Against this background, the Year 9's Industry Day invited speakers into school from colleges, employers, social enterprises and training providers. More than just talks, the students learned practical skills including first aid, hydroponics and designing what their ideal job could be.



Students' book is the business

Young Enterprise team gets selling

Launching a business, finding, designing and producing a product, then bringing that product market - these were all steps taken by our Young Enterprise company team, 'Just a Bit of Madness'.

The company programme is a national initiative developing entrepreneurial skills for success in business. This saw our students visit the Trafford Centre for the launch of their product, a guide to moving up to secondary school from primary.

The members of the team took on each of the roles you would expect in a business, including Managing Director, finance, marketing and sales roles.

Later in the term there will be more activity as the team targets their market through local primary schools, as well as pitching their product in a *Dragons' Den* style event to gain support to develop the product further.



“Want to talk about it?”

Safer Internet Day 2023

Marking Safer Internet Day gave students an important reminder of how to stay safe online. It may often feel that the younger generation has far more knowledge about life online than parents. So we would like to share with you some practical tips about life 'online'.

The internet plays a significant role in the lives of children and young people; becoming integral to their social development as they get older. Talking to young people about their life online and encouraging them to share their experiences with you, is a key part of helping to safeguard your family.

Whatever your level of knowledge or confidence, these five tips will help you start, manage and maintain an open dialogue with your children about life online, and help you support them to use technology safely and positively.

- Be positive and open minded about the internet

It's important to recognise the exciting opportunities that going online can offer children and young people. Although your children may use the internet differently to you, their experiences are still significant.

If your child mentions something you haven't heard of, ask them to show you, or explain in more detail, or you may need to do your own research. Try to keep conversations broad, and value their opinions when they're talking about what they enjoy doing, to show that you are interested in all aspects of their online world.



- Talk early and often

The most effective way to deal with any online issue is to make conversations about the internet a part of your everyday routine. Talking openly about life online from an early age, can be a helpful bridge to sharing safety messages and addressing more difficult conversations at a later date; it also shows your child that you are someone who knows about the internet and can help them.

- Create a safe space for conversations

Look for opportunities to talk together. There are times when talking face-to-face can feel difficult, so talking alongside each other when out for a walk, or when travelling in the car for example, are options that might make it easier.

The environment needs to be right; free from distractions, so that your child has your undivided attention. Remind them often that they can talk to you about anything, no matter how difficult, and that they will not be judged or blamed.

Your child might not be ready to talk about something straight away, so show them that you are there to listen whenever they are ready.



- Keep it relevant

As they get older, your children will use technology differently from when they first went online. Their knowledge and understanding will grow too, as will the challenges they may face on the internet.

To get a sense of how much they know and what support they still need, ask open-ended questions to let your child lead the conversations you have.

There are appropriate ways to approach all online safety topics with different ages. For example, with a teenager, nude images can be spoken about in wider conversations around consent and healthy relationships. For younger children, you could discuss what types of images are fine to share online, and what areas of our bodies are private.

- Be proactive

Working together to create an agreement, outlining how the internet and technology will be used within the family, is a useful way to set clear expectations and boundaries for your children. You might include time spent online; who your children can communicate with; appropriate apps and games; and why safety tools are helpful to block and report inappropriate content.

Ask your child what they would do if something went wrong online and they needed help, and reinforce the importance of telling an adult as soon as anything happens that makes them feel upset, worried, or uncomfortable in any way.

Sharing singing across Oldham schools

Vocal Gala

Student singers joined their voices with over a hundred others from schools across Oldham to learn a little more about working together in a choir.

Learning the importance of correct breathing, and how to warm up the vocal chords (like any other muscles before exercise), they were then all ready to sing.

Then together with young people from Newman College, Brian Clarke Academy, Hathershaw and Crompton House, the students learned and sang *This is why we sing* by Greg Gilpin and *Sing* by Lloyd Webber and Gary Barlow.

Then each school performed their own choice of song, with our students choosing Calum Scott's *You are the Reason*.



News in Brief

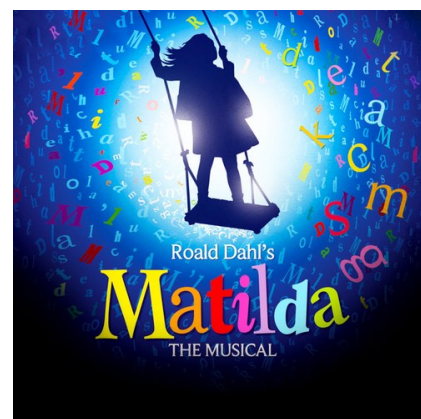
Best of success to students in Year 11 who have had interviews for a place at Oldham Sixth Form College this term.

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Excitement is building as we approached the reveal of our show for summer 2023.

A display in the Street had some 60 famous musicals. At regular intervals shows that won't be performed have been removed until we announce the 'winner'.

So we are delighted to share that the show we will present in July is...



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If you use social media please follow the school channels on Facebook, twitter and Instagram.



Radclyffe orchestral adventure brings music to life

NYO Play the School day

Students enjoyed an inspiring orchestral adventure, courtesy of the National Youth Orchestra. Under the title 'Play the School', the day of activities had the young people composing, experimenting and performing alongside the talented musicians.

Classes in all departments began with musical icebreakers, brief activities to record students' reactions to the music they heard, and their feelings about what music means to them.

Short performances popped up in unusual places throughout the day – from lunchtimes in the café to lessons and social times. GCSE Music students took on the role of ambassadors throughout the event, presenting and explaining the performances as they happened. Photography students were tasked with recording the day's activity, supported by the NYO's marketing and communications team.

A recent innovation in the school is music that accompanies lesson changeovers at several times each day, encouraging prompt arrival at lessons. For this event the music was provided live by members of the orchestra.

The finale saw a performance by the orchestra of classical and modern pieces. NYO musicians worked with Dance students to create a piece for the audience to enjoy.

Head of Music Mr Corrigan said, "It was a not-to-be-missed opportunity to welcome a full 90-piece orchestra visiting us for the day. Students throughout the school could engage in learning in a different way, and it was exciting to link with dance and photography so that so many young people could take part."

Our event was the second day of performance in Oldham schools, following a similar event at Hathershaw College. The NYO had been on tour that week performing in London, Nottingham, Coventry and Liverpool. The event was made possible through the school's partnership with the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST).

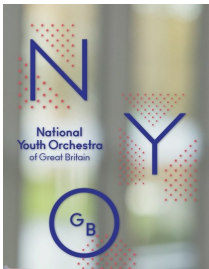
Magnificent music lessons

Opportunity for all to learn to play

This is now our third year on the MiSST programme and it has been an incredible journey so far. We have given out over 900 instruments, delivered over 2574 hours of instrumental tuition and more than 500 students have been involved in an additional musical activity in the last three years. The opportunities that are available to our students are world class; we have taken students to perform at the Queen Elizabeth Hall at the Southbank Centre in London, and a three day orchestra residential at Radley College. This year, we are preparing to take students to perform at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane to perform alongside Lord Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Jess Gillam MBE and the Kanneh-Mason family. These are opportunities that music students across the country just don't get and it is a privilege to be able to deliver this to our amazing musicians!

Students are making excellent progress in lessons and no matter where you are in the building, the school is buzzing with music. As our first MiSST cohort begins to think about options, they are in an excellent position to continue their musical study at KS4. Students in Year 9 are already completing work that our current Year 11s are studying.

Images from a memorable day



Late arrivals mean lost learning

Importance of arriving on time

The Five Respects are at the heart of everything we do at The Radclyffe School. Respects 4 and 5 speak of having respect for our own learning, and for the learning of others.

Good timekeeping becomes a vital part of both these Respects. Where a student is late for the start of a lesson, this can disrupt learning both for them and other students.

At the beginning of the school day students should make their way directly to the Welcome and Wellbeing session, taking the quickest route and not stopping on the Street.

With so many students moving around school at lesson changeovers, we appreciate how busy it can get in the building. In recent weeks we have introduced a one-way system in school, which has brought positive benefits in reducing congestion at various places. It is important too for students to be responsible for understanding their timetable and arriving promptly at their next lesson. Arriving late will be recorded, and parents are notified.

At lunch and break times, when students are outside they should move on the whistle and make their way directly to classrooms. At these points toilets are out of use. We expect that students should be outside their classrooms when the bell sounds.

We also expect that students should move when asked and take the quickest route available to their lesson, once again being outside the classroom when the bell sounds.

Local support offer to help with food bills

The bread and butter thing

With the recent rises in the cost of living, especially food prices, we have been asked to share a project that is up and running in Oldham. You can benefit from a partnership with Manchester-based charity The Bread and Butter Thing to offer good quality food at greatly reduced prices.

For just £7.50 per week, you receive three full bags of shopping worth an average of £35 – one of fridge goods, one of cupboard goods and one of fruit and veg. Or you can double up and get six bags, worth approximately £70, for £15.

The service is being run from five centres around Oldham - Wallshaw Street Community Centre (Mondays 1.30-2pm), Bethesda Church in Royton (Wednesdays 1.30-2pm), Sholver and Moorside Community Hub (Thursdays 1.30-2pm), ROC 'n' Rolls Community Cafe in Holts (Fridays 1.30-2pm), and NEON in Greenacres (Saturdays 2pm - 2.30pm).

If you would like to be part of this service and live in a First Choice Homes Oldham property, please contact FCHO's Community Impact team on 0161 393 5488 or email communityimpact@fcho.co.uk. If you are not a FCHO customer, register by texting **07860 063 304** with your full name, postcode, and the name of the hub you would like to collect from.

All the food on offer is good quality surplus food from supermarkets.



Students bid for gastronomic greatness

Rotary Young Chef competition

The Rotary Club Young Chef competition returned to the school, as eight talented students pitted their culinary skills against each other.

The chefs took on the challenge of producing a two course meal in just one-and-a-half hours. As well as the quality of the food, the students' creations were judged on planning, cost, hygiene and neatness and the presentation of the table.

Amongst the mouth watering meals served for the judges to taste were fresh mackerel in a spicy sauce, kebabs with mint chutni, and vegetable Italian pasta with cheese. All the desserts were just as mouth-watering - chocolate and hazelnut brownies, a biscoff cheesecake, and hot waffles with chocolate ice cream.

This was a school heat, which will lead to two further rounds in the Rotary Club district, covering much of Greater Manchester and Cheshire.

Congratulations then to our winner Adi Yusuf in Year 8, and to runner up Maria Sheikh in Year 9. In third place, and a reserve for the further rounds, well done to Maniyah Saleem from Year 10.

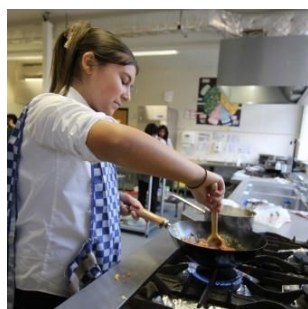
We would like to thank the Rotary Club for their support with the event, and especially our judges, Roger, Trevor and Linda. The students learned a lot from the judges' positive comments to improve their culinary skills.

The top three students took away prizes of waffle makers and a popcorn machine. Adi and Maria were presented with chef's whites to wear in future rounds of the competition. We wish them every success in the contest, which could be held at our school later this year.

News in Brief

Have you got into your five-minute bubble? To reduce traffic congestion around school at the start and end of the day, we are asking parents to drop your child a short distance from Hunt Lane - in the five minute bubble - and allow them to walk a short distance.

As the initiative reduces the number of cars, it will also bring health benefits, from greater exercise, increase young people's independence and help us to be good neighbours to people living close to the school.



Making connections to care for mental health

Children's Mental Health Week 2023

Help and support for young people who may be coping with mental health challenges is something that happens every day at The Radclyffe School, as it does at schools across the country. It is thought that as many as one in six young people are having to deal with a diagnosable mental health condition.

This shows how important it is that everyone is aware of mental health care, both our own and for people we meet and spend our days with. And it's here that Children's Mental Health Week make such a massive contribution. This year's theme is 'Let's Connect.'

Top tips to help support your child

Simple advice from Place2Be

1 Connect with your child in everyday ways

Moments of connection are important in child-caregiver relationships. For example, when you pick them up from school, or come in from work, try to give them your full attention and see if this helps you feel better connected as you hug, talk, smile and hear about their day.

2 Talk to your child about connections

This could include talking about family members, friends, neighbours, childminders, people in the local community and others in your faith group (if you have one).

Remember it's ok to talk about people they miss, for example, family members who live in a different country or people who have died.

3 Talk to your child about their friends

As children become teenagers, their friendship groups become increasingly important to them. Be open to hearing about their friendships and try to listen without judgement.

4 Connect by taking an interest in your child's world

As adults we can sometimes be dismissive of the things that our children and teenagers are interested in, their music, fashion, what they watch. If you take an interest in these things, you may feel better connected to your child and the important things in their world. This can lead to conversations about other things in their lives that matter to them.

Fundraising boosts earthquake appeal

The Charity Team have been busy getting ready to support Children's Mental Health Week, with a staff on the Street as the half term came to an end.

The students took the decision that we will donate all the money raised to the appeal following the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria.



Children's Mental Health Week

Charity backing puts support close at hand

The first-ever Children's Mental Health Week took place in 2015 to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health.

Now in its ninth year, the aim of the event is to encourage more people than ever to get involved, spread the word, and raise vital funds for children's mental health.

The week has been pioneered by the charity Place2Be. Every year, Place2Be's expert team develops resources to help people participate in the week. From activity ideas and assembly guides to top tips and videos, the resources will help all of us, in school and out, to explore mental health and wellbeing with the children and young people around us.

There is a wide choice of support available for anyone facing challenges with their mental health or who may just need advice on how they can help.

Visit childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk to discover more.

Take time to ask yourself, "Am I Ok?"

Parent Mental Health Day

While we recognise how important it is to support our children with their mental health, we all need to take time to manage our own health too. Parents Mental Health Day took place in January helping to raise awareness to support families, parents mental health also needs looking after.

The event was launched last year by teenage mental health charity Stem4. The charity has created a number of free apps and other resources that parents can use to support their own mental health and look after their own wellbeing. You can find all these in the Google Play store or the Apple app store:



Calmharm - supports young people to resist or manage the urge to self-harm



ClearFear - helps children and young people manage the symptoms of anxiety



Movemood - helps teenagers manage low mood and depression



Combined Minds - enables families and friends to provide mental health support

MOVE MOOD

You might also find the advice from the NSPCC on parenting and mental health helpful. Find this at [How to Take Care of Your Mental Health during Lockdown | NSPCC](#)

Speak **R**espectfully



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.



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Behave **R**espectfully



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.



The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Respect School Environment



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.



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Respect your own learning



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.



The Radclyffe School
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Respect the learning of others



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.



The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Teacher Q&A

Mr Taylor, Head of French

What subject do you teach?

French

What is your teaching background and experience?

I was a Teaching Assistant at The Radclyffe School from 2012-2018, then left to complete my training. I worked at three different schools before arriving back home!

What do you like most about your job?

Seeing students succeed – I was also a student at this school so it is great to see young aspirational people who had similar backgrounds to me.

What's the funniest thing a student has said or done in class?

I used to teach one student who – every lesson without fail – came armed with dad jokes. They were all awful, but we laughed anyway!

What achievement are you most proud of?

Every day brings its new challenges, but I feel very proud when students who really struggle with French listen to my guidance and accept help, only to produce amazing pieces of work and conquer their demons.

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

Enjoy your remaining time at Radclyffe – when I was here in Year 11, I sometimes didn't appreciate what I was going to miss as much as I do! If this means changing your ways, so be it. Make the most of every day and carpe diem - seize the day!



Half term entertainment

Illuminate Festival

"See Oldham in a new light". That's the promise as the borough's light arts festival returns for its sixth year. Captivating artworks and performances will be brought to life, by imaginations of artist from across the UK.



Explore the illuminated townscape from Gallery Oldham and Oldham Library, through to the historic Old Town Hall, Oldham Parish Church and on to the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

The programme includes Luke Jerram's Mars, 10am-4pm through the week at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (10am-9pm Saturday 18th) and the Illuminate Light Night and Parade on Saturday 18th February, 6-9pm across Oldham town centre.

For all the details of what and where and when visit Oldham Council's website

[Illuminate | Oldham Council](#)

Taking a look back

January 2020 - Facebook HQ visit



Our students were busy this term, discovering what they need to succeed, and developing the skills that will empower them to reach their potential.

Jobs in the digital market will be a major area of growth for years to come. Who better to inspire our students than Facebook, a global business worth more than \$250bn.

Students visited their UK headquarters in London to investigate the careers available and the skills and qualifications they would need.

January 2017 - Students learn business basis of the environment

Two teams of students are raising their understanding of environmental issues by taking part in the Go4Set challenge.

Over ten weeks the students are working with engineers John and Kieran from construction firm Wilmott Dixon to help them understand the business of recycling.

The first team, Team Nebula, has chosen to compare the use of paper hand towels in school with air hand dryers. Earlier this term they heard from staff at Dyson about the technology involved in the Dyson Airblade hand dryers.



February 2014 - University skills tripping off the tongue



Students at The Radclyffe School took the chance to sample new languages and think about what subject they might like to study, with a visit to the University of Manchester.

The 'Viva Languages' day set out to inspire students to study languages.

Supported by the language undergraduates, our students had great fun role playing in Spanish – a restaurant disaster and a wrestling match! They also enjoyed getting an introduction to some more unusual languages, including Russian and Arabic.