



The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Magazine

April-May 2024



**Ofsted recognition
as we get back to
Good**

Orchestral Manoeuvres give a spark

MiSST Together Day

A day of learning and rehearsal led to an afternoon performance for students who have been learning to play their musical instrument as part of the MiSST activities in school.

We were delighted to welcome students from Furness Academy in Barrow to share in the event, led by conductor

The students learned three new pieces of music ahead of the afternoon concert, but just as importantly developed their skills of playing as part of an orchestra.

The students learned Carol Brittin Chambers' *Byzantine Dances*, *Dance the Night*, and *Oye Como Va* by Tito Puente.

Teacher of Music Mr Dzida said, "Both students from our school and Furness Academy had a fantastic time and put in the most incredible amount of effort throughout the day. I am so proud of our kids and what they were able to demonstrate in the concert at the end of the day."



Acting talent in exam showcase

Drama GCSE Performances



Dramatic extracts from some of the UK's leading playwrights provided the subject for the first GCSE examinations to take place this summer.

The GCSE students had chosen and rehearsed their pieces, ready to perform in front of an external examiner, and a supportive audience. Amongst the plays featured were *Teachers* by John Godber, Dennis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills* and *Be My Baby* by Amanda Whittington.

Within the Drama course, students study three components, including analysing a set text, working in groups to create original pieces of theatre, and in this case performing two short extracts from a play. students are assessed on their ability to apply acting skills and to realise artistic intentions in live performance.

Practical skills were also examined with two students showing off their abilities in set design and costume design - all vital parts of the theatre experience.

Drama is one of several subjects where students develop transferable skills such as collaborating with others, thinking analytically and evaluating effectively.



Getting back to 'Good'

Ofsted inspection

We are delighted to share the GOOD news, following our Ofsted inspection at the end of February. We have been judged 'Good' in all categories and 'Good' overall.

The grade recognises the excellent efforts at improvement that are continuing as the school prepares to join the Cranmer Education Trust.

The inspection team noted:

- the school is ambitious for all its students, determined that they gain the knowledge and skills they need to thrive. The school's Five Respects underpin positive behaviour in lessons across the curriculum.
- A broad curriculum offers students a wide range of choices. Recent reviews of all our subjects have brought more breadth and depth – the well-designed curricula allow students to build their subject knowledge in a logical way, driving achievement.
- Students enjoy the school's extensive opportunities offered at the school, particularly the wide range of sports activities available.
- The inspectors noted that students are provided with the knowledge they need to be well prepared for life beyond school.
- The report further commended the school on its provision for students with SEND, and those who may have gaps in their reading knowledge. Enjoying reading for pleasure is actively encouraged, and most young people become confident readers.

Headteacher John Cregg said, "We're delighted by this improved judgement which is a resounding endorsement and validation of the amazing commitment and extensive hard work undertaken by our staff team and our school improvement partners including the Cranmer Education Trust."



We know that there are some areas for further improvement and we're working hard to make sure these are addressed, as well as finding ways to make our school even better across all areas."

The Chair of Governors Sue Webb added, "As a governing body we are thrilled and delighted with the outcome of the inspection and the 'Good' judgements in every single category."

We know that under Mr. Cregg's leadership the staff of the school have worked tirelessly to bring about the necessary changes identified in the last report and this report reflects their ongoing efforts and commitment to our students."



Students put their culinary skills put to the test

Food Preparation & Nutrition NEAs

Great cooking was on show in school as the students studying GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition came to the practical test of their talents.

Over two weeks, each day small groups of students prepared three delicious dishes each, and served their finished creations in a specially created pop-up restaurant.

Given a theme for their assessment, which this year was 'celebrating events, occasions and festivals of the world', the students chose their different dishes. Each dish typically demonstrated a different skill - from filleting fish to safely handling meat, making a variety of forms of pastry to creating a roux.

The variety of dishes prepared ranged from burgers to empanadas, carbonara to kebabs. Sweet choices included chocolate Swiss roll, pavlova, Seville orange eclairs and Eton Mess!

As part of their final assessment the students had to plan, cook, and present the food, working against the clock.

With the event carrying over a third of the marks towards their final result, the students were assessed on their cooking skills, but also on teamwork, hygiene and safety, and their planning.

On each day, preparation and cooking began at 9am, with the finished dishes needing to be ready for 12 noon. Even before that time the wonderful cooking smells were attracting the final ingredient - members of staff who were invited to taste the results of the students efforts and add their thoughts about the wonderful creations.



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

Finding 'Time' to discover science

British Science Week (or Ofsted)

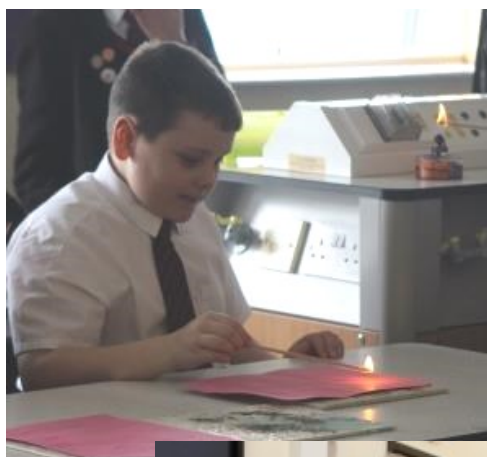
The chance to explore science through new and unusual experiments helped to broaden students' understanding as we celebrated British Science Week.

Practical lessons across Key Stage 3 embraced the event's theme of 'Time'. Working in teams the young people designed and built their own marble runs, rewarded with the length of time the marble kept moving. The teams were seeking a minimum running time of 30 seconds.

All three sciences were involved, with students also testing physical and chemical reactions - did you know what happens when hydrochloric acid is added to sodium thiosulphate, and how long it takes for the colour to change to yellow!

Lunchtime clubs proved popular throughout the week, with students taking the time to build and launch rockets, perfect their marble run designs, launch soda-powered boats, write with fire, and make their own lava lamps!

Teacher of Science Miss Collins said, "The students were really engaged in the practical sessions, and it was a pleasure for members of staff to share our love of science with them. British Science Week is an excellent opportunity to fire the students' imagination and do things a little differently."



Posters provoke a passion

As British Science Week is a national celebration of science, our students got involved in a special competition with young people from across the country. They were asked to design a poster illustrating the theme of Time - providing a huge area of inspiration.

We have received some excellent hand-drawn entries, where students have gone to great lengths to create informative and eye-catching designs. For the students to rise to the challenge and designed the best posters, as well as others who contributed greatly to the success of British Science Week, there was an incentive of our own prize - a visit to Chester Zoo planned for later this year.



Respects refresher reminds students of expectations

Five Respects at The Radclyffe School

At The Radclyffe School we acknowledge that it is the responsibility of all staff and students to respect the rights of each other in and around school. To help with this we have established the Five Respects - five simple rules that students felt should be integral to the way the school works, and to the way in which we all behave to one another.

During this term all year groups took the time to discuss exactly what they mean and the practical everyday actions that staff and students can take to model the Five Respects throughout the school. The artwork below is a striking feature, displayed on banners in the Street to remind everyone of what is expected.



The Five **R**espects: Our **R**ights, Our **R**esponsibilities.  The Radclyffe School
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Who's who in Moana

Cast busy with preparations for Disney show

Rehearsals are already in full swing for a summer show that promises a taste of the south Pacific.

Moana is a coming-of-age story which follows the strong willed Moana as she sets sail across the Pacific to save her village and discover the truth about her heritage. Moana and the legendary demi-god Maui embark on an epic journey of self-discovery and camaraderie as both learn to harness the power that lies within.

Following the auditions earlier this term, the cast has now been chosen. Many congratulations to:

Moana	Keavy O'Brien
Maui	Liam Hunter
Chief Ancestor 1	Alba Livesey
Chief Ancestor 2	Phoebe Hammond
Chief Ancestor 3	Amelia Anderson
Chief Tui	Jack Barnett-Benedikti
Gramma Tala	Kiera Wright
Hei Hei	Summer Prescott
Pua	Alicia Eze
Sina	Sophie Khalkoven
Tamatoa	Oliviya Bryer
Left Claw (Tamatoa)	Lily Mellor
Right Claw (Tamatoa)	Lillie Mott

Ensemble cast and extra roles including fishermen, Gate Monster, Te Ka/Te Fiti, villagers

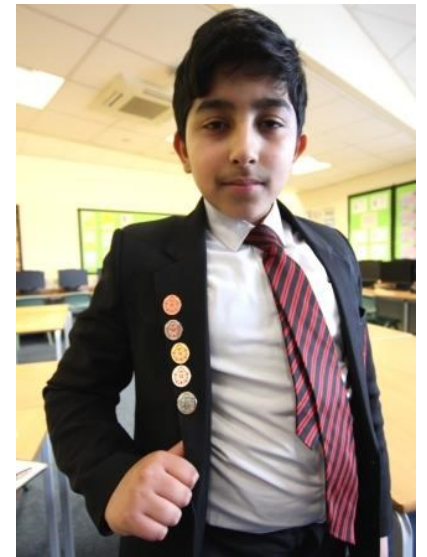
Raheesh Ahmad, Fiza Ali, Poppy Anderson, William Aniche, Alissia Flanagan, Ruby Gee, Sebastian Ionas, Bethany Khalkoven, Esme Lomas, Aiden Loynes, Anna Luste, Ethan Mallam, Miacle Masuku, Darcy-Leigh McGuire, Aniqah Rahman, Abdullah Shahid, Jordan Shodipo

Ticket sales for the show will get underway after the Easter holiday. The show dates for your diary will be during week commencing 8th July. Watch this space!

News in Brief

As students are awarded positive behaviour logs throughout the year, they are rewarded with badges as they reach milestones - Bronze at 100, Silver at 200, Gold at 300.

In some rare occasions students reach the next milestone of 400 positive logs, and the Platinum badge. It is incredible then to reach 500 - and the Diamond badge, but one student in Year 8 has done so already, just two thirds of the way through the year.



Many congratulations then to Asad Ranjha in Year 8, whose current total is 524 (and probably higher by the time you read this!)

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Mystery Readers amongst inspiring reading activity

World Book Day

The annual celebration of reading and story telling that is World Book Day made a welcome return to school. The long running event gives us a powerful opportunity to encourage all our students in their reading.

English lessons for students in Years 7 to 9 were visited by Mystery Readers, who read an extract of a book that meant a lot to them.

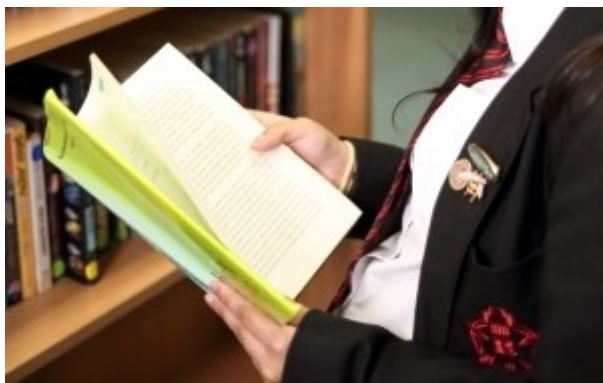
Deputy Headteacher Mrs Black chose *The Worst Witch* by Gill Murphy - "a really funny book which was one of the first I read independently."

Teacher of History Miss Baker read from *Running Wild* by Michael Murpurgo. She said, "It was my favourite book at school and I loved the adventure that it told. It was really special reading it to Year 9 students, especially when a few wanted to read the book themselves to find out what happened next."

Mrs Coope in PE read from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, and said, "I love this book because when I read it as a child I felt very blessed to have two brothers as in the story, if there was no male heir the girl would be at risk of losing her home if she did not marry. I also liked it because women now have a choice of who to marry, and are able to work and be independent and in the book unfortunately they did not have these rights."

And Headteacher Mr Cregg introduced students to *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell, which was chosen because of its unique structure and variety of literary genres.

We know that some students need some encouragement to read; The students' £1 book tokens, given out free during Welcome & Wellbeing sessions, enable them to pick up a book for a reduced price from various bookshops, including Waterstones in Oldham town centre.



Finding your favourite read? We have hundreds to choose from

The school library offers an amazing choice of books for all interests and levels of ability. It is also home to its own literary sculpture, created in 2015, its oak leaves created from book pages.

The library is a great place for a quiet read, the chance for discovery of new information or somewhere to complete home learning or lesson projects.

Did you grab a Golden Ticket?

With an idea inspired by the world of Willy Wonka, dozens of Golden Tickets were placed around the school for students to collect.

Just one ticket each though, because to possess a Golden Ticket entitled the holder to a free book. The young readers got to choose from over 100 titles from a diverse range of authors.



How reading stories brings hospital joy

Readathon

Reading for pleasure is a wonderful thing in itself, but what if reading can raise money for an amazing cause. This is just what is achieved by our involvement in Readathon.

Our students' sponsorship efforts will help to raise an impressive total, as they dive into novels, short stories, magazines, even blogs and newspapers. The deadline for reading and collecting sponsorship money is Friday 26th April, so there is still plenty of time for students to read what they enjoy.

The money raised helps children in hospitals to access their own favourite reads. New books are bought for the children to read and the charity also pays for children's authors to visit hospitals to read their stories.

Ms Razaq said, "We are very proud of the students' efforts in support of this fantastic cause and we want to thank everyone who has sponsored them."



A good book + delicious cake

Cake & Book Sale



Picking up an interesting new read, perhaps from an author you hadn't read before, and accompanying it with a slice of cake. What better way to celebrate World Book Day for staff?

All the books and all the cake were provided by the team, and helped to raise a fantastic £229.62 for Springhill Hospice in Rochdale. The hospice cared for our former colleague Charlotte Haggerty, an English teacher who passionately loved reading who died in 2015.



Guessing game tests students Shakespearean knowledge

Costumes and clues

A further World Book Day competitive twist had teachers in the English faculty dressing up as various people from Shakespeare's plays - 11 characters and the playwright himself. Students had to work out who they were, from the very easy to the fiendishly difficult.

Can you guess who is being described here? 'A powerful wizard and the former Duke of Milan, ??? has been washed up on a deserted island with a host of magical creatures. Can ??? use his magic to get revenge on those who have crossed him in the past?'

'??? is the King of Scotland and is murdered by the treacherous Macbeth. ??? is the model of a good, virtuous king who puts the welfare of the country above his own and seeks to nurture and grow the kingdom that is his responsibility. ??? is the living embodiment of the political and social order that Macbeth destroys.'

Answers on page 13

Time to choose subjects for KS4

Options for Year 9

Students in Year 9 have reached the important milestone when they choose the subjects they will study through to Year 11.

The National Curriculum requires students to do a broad range of subjects which are compulsory. These are **Mathematics, English, Science, Physical Education, and Personal Development**. Students are then able to choose four optional subjects. You will select the option choices that you wish your child to take through a link on the student portal. You can see your child's choices through the MCAS app.

Deputy Headteacher Mrs Black explains, "It is very important that choosing subjects in KS4 is a joint decision between parents and students, and that these choices are made very carefully. Once they have been made, apart from in exceptional circumstances, they cannot be changed."

We will always try to give your child their first preference choices. Occasionally, this is not possible and if this is the case it will require further discussion."

The process of selecting options is done online via the student portal. It is important that students do not complete this form on their own but do this in consultation their parents and carers. This form must be submitted by **Thursday 18th April**.

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.

We were delighted to welcome parents and students to our Options Evenings and would like to thank everyone who was able to attend. Students and parents had the chance to ask questions of teachers about the various options we offer, together with the value of vocational qualifications, the new curriculum and the English Baccalaureate.

How to Choose My Options?

For everyone choosing their KS4 subjects, good advice is essential.

You should consider the following:

- Your ability to study the option successfully
- Your interest in the option
- Your thoughts on future careers.

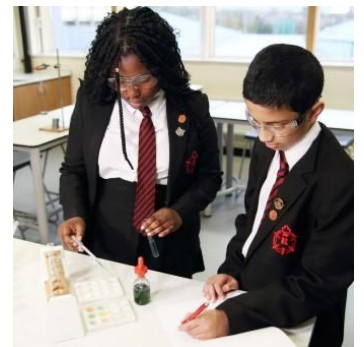
You must not:

- choose to be with friends
- choose because you like the teacher you have had this year.

We select students on the following criteria:

- The number of requests for each option
- If an option is oversubscribed, the student's attendance and events log.

Options will not run if fewer than 12 students opt for it.



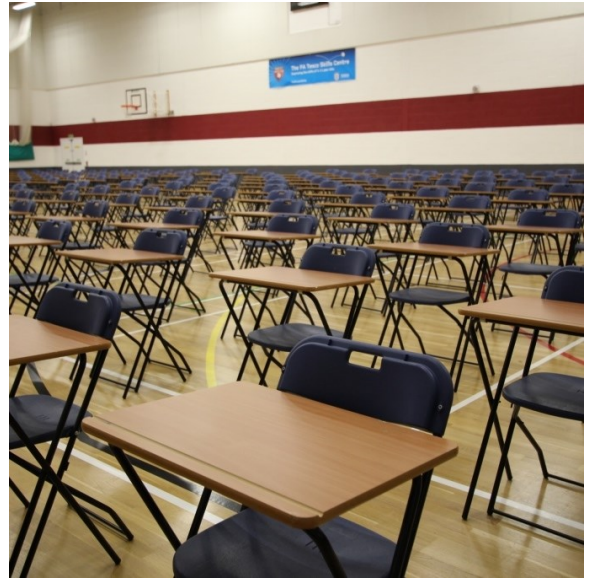
Finding the best ways to revise

Exams coming up for all year groups

The GCSE summer exams begin on Thursday 2nd May with the first Digital Information Technology paper and continue until the final Food Preparation and Nutrition exam on Wednesday 19th June. Our Year 11 students have been preparing with revision sessions at lunchtimes and after school.

In practical subjects such as Art and Photography, some final exams have already taken place. End of Year assessments for Years 7, 8 and 9 will take place in June. Pre-Public Exams for students in Year 10 will get underway after the Easter holiday

At The Radclyffe School we seek to ensure that all our students are well prepared for their exams. The formal exam conditions that they can expect at GCSE are what they experience throughout the school.



Revision is of huge importance in all year groups, so here are some of our best tips for preparing for exams in school.

- **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!



How being in school helps students to thrive

Attendance campaign

Throughout this term we have raised awareness with parents and with students of just how important it is to be at school. Short term absences for minor illness can have a big negative impact on students' experience of school, when it means they are missing out on many activities that make school life exciting.

Often an unwillingness to come into school is quickly overcome when young people arrive, spend time with their friends, and get involved in their lessons, extra-curricular clubs, and visits out of school.

The campaign aims to reach parents and carers whose children are taking preventable odd days of absence, rather than those who face greater barriers to attendance such as long term medical needs or special educational needs and disabilities.

Education Welfare Attendance Manager Mrs Chrisham said, "We are grateful to parents who make great efforts themselves to ensure their children are in school. When children take time off for minor reasons, they are missing out on so much. When they do come into school even with minor illness, they feel better just for being here and being involved."



Robots!

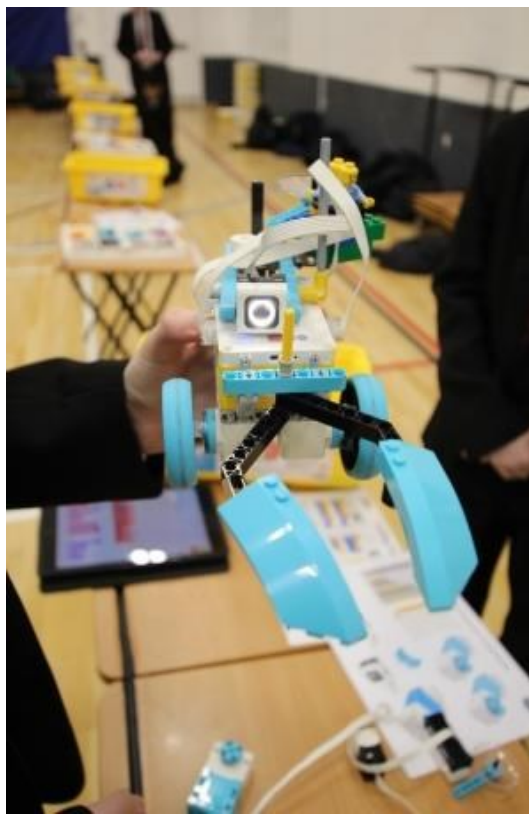
STEM sessions support science

The Challenge: build your Lego robot to you own design. Design it to tackle the needs of a series of given scenarios. The write the code to programme the robot to follow a pattern laid on the floor.

The response: students in Years 8 and 9 rose to the challenge impressively, learning about the science of robotics, engineering and coding.

Working with the team from Hyett Education, the students were set tasks for their robots to complete. They could add touch and colour sensors to their vehicles, as well as lights to enable the robots to operate in the dark. The tasks grew progressively harder, until the final challenge was for the robot to retrieve an item, which required imaginative designs.

The breadth of skills that the session involved inspired the young people to explore a number of fields - from computer coding to engineering and design technology.



News in Brief

A Cultural Dress Day at the end of term allowed students to celebrate their heritage and culture. Students were invited to make a small donation which will benefit the development charity Water Aid.

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Students visited the Etihad Stadium for a lesson that combined the role of Business with study of languages.

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Small group sessions are helping Year 11 students to gain their best possible grades at GCSE in both English and Maths.

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Congratulations to Year 11 student Tomiwa Fasua who has been awarded a place in the Book of Excellence for each of her five years at the school.

+++++

The end of the school term sees the approach of two important festivals of faith. For everyone celebrating during the school holiday, a very blessed Easter and Eid Mubarak!

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Shakespeare answers:
Prospero and Duncan

Students have their say for Ofsted

When Ofsted inspectors visited, they took the time to speak to students about what they think about life at The Radclyffe School. Here are just some of the responses that students gave:

Kiara, Year 9 – The Radclyffe School is great because there are lots of things that I can get involved in. The club and activities are great

Alicia, Year 8– The Radclyffe School has great opportunities for everyone. It’s a good place for everyone to learn”

Amaar, Year 10 – Everyone feels welcome and has a place in the school. The teachers care about your learning and constantly try to make you the best student you can possibly be.

Phoebe, Year 10 – Students try their hardest in lessons and behaviour in lessons is great.

Maria, Year 10– Everyone in school is really supportive. The teachers support students really well. We all work together to make the school the best it can be. I really enjoy all of my lessons.

Ethan, Year 8 – We are a very inclusive school. Everyone is welcome at the Radclyffe School. We have lots of activities and learning experiences. The teachers work really hard so that we can be great.

Samah, Year 8– My teachers are great. They have lots of different techniques to help different students learn and succeed.

Amirah, Year 9– The facilities we have are incredible and we’re given so many opportunities to learn in and outside of the classroom. We are a really diverse and inclusive school where everyone is welcome.

Oliver, Year 9 – Things that make the Radclyffe School great are all the different lesson choices we have and all the amazing things we can do. Also all the clubs that are on at break, lunchtime and after school are great because it gives students a chance to relax and learn something different that we really enjoy.

William, Year 10 - The school is a really safe place to be. Our teachers and staff really care about us and look after us really well. The teachers are really skilled and experienced making our lessons good and I really enjoy taking part in lots of lunchtime clubs and experiences.

Year 11 Boys power to Oldham Schools’ Plate Final

Congratulations to our Year 11 Boys’ Football team who will compete in the Oldham Schools Plate Final after the Easter holiday.

Head of PE Mr Mellor said, “The team pulled off a brilliant performance to beat Royton and Crompton 6-0. ‘Man of the match’ Tayeb hit a hat trick inside 12 minutes and Arash, Abdullah and Amaan added further goals to complete a memorable win and send us to the final!”



Could your child walk or cycle?

Summer travel to school

As we look forward to the summer term, and hopefully to better weather, it is time to consider how your child travels to and from school. We would encourage students whenever possible to walk or cycle.

If you usually drop off or collect your child from school, please allow them to walk. Even if it is just a short distance, this greatly helps to cut congestion around Hunt Lane at the start and end of the school day.

You might even consider walking with your child - though we know that later in their school life, children will appreciate their independence in getting themselves to and from the school gate. There is of course, also a huge environmental benefit to leaving the car at home.



If your child is a confident cyclist, they might also wish to come to school by bike. We have space for over 100 bicycles, which can be stored securely through the day. We would of course encourage them to wear a helmet and cycle safely, particularly on busier roads. Some of the major routes around Chadderton benefit from safe cycle lanes to make the journey simple.



Plea for polite parking

Respect needed on Hunt Lane

With almost 1500 students arriving and departing from school each day, Hunt Lane can get very busy at those times. All the more reason then to always be courteous and respectful to other road users, and to our neighbours nearby.

Please remember that parking on the pavements may risk a penalty from Oldham Council Enforcement Officers.

More than that, the cost of fuel means that it's something we can't afford to waste. Keeping your car engine idling while parked outside school waiting to collect your child is just burning money. For the sake of your wallet, as well as the health of our children and for our neighbours, please turn off your engines while you are waiting.

Transport change

School bus joins the Bee Network

As the Spring term comes to a close, a change has come into effect on the yellow school bus service for The Radclyffe School. The creation of the 'Bee Network' in Greater Manchester, returning local bus services to local control, means that the familiar bus service will be operated by a new company.

That should be as much change as students will see - some services will use the current fleet of Yellow School Buses, some will use the operators' own vehicles, and some will use Bee Network branded buses. All will display the Bee Network logo.

Reusing uniform to cut waste and save money

Uniform Exchange

We would like to remind you that 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.

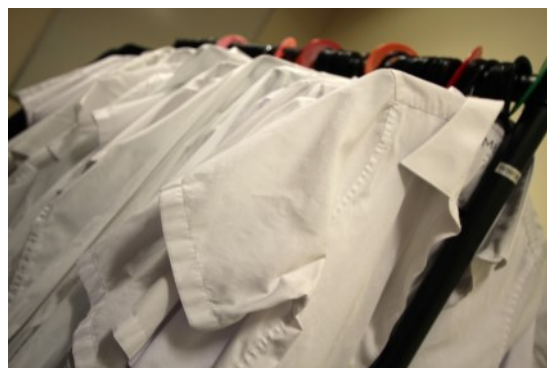
All donated items are cleaned before being offered for collection. We know that the cost of school uniform can be a problem, so any steps we can take to help will take the pressure off.

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.



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