

FOUNDATION NEWS

December 2020

Since September 2015, the Development Office has been seeking support from the wider Ratcliffe community as part of our five-year fundraising campaign, entitled **Ratcliffe 2020**. It is thanks to the generous support of alumni, parents and local grant funding bodies that during the 5-year period we have raised in excess of £500,000, which has helped towards developing the College's sporting facilities as well as significantly enhancing our bursary support for Ratcliffe students.



Sports Appeal

One of the recent highlights was the opening of the Fitness Suite along with the beautifully refurbished Ratcliffian Association Bar, following a two-year long Sports Appeal (#SportMatters). Believe me when I say, it truly is a wonderful facility, and when times allow, I hope you will be able to join us at one of the



many Old Ratcliffian gatherings in the Bar and wonderful new Suite which now overlooks the 1st XI Cricket pitch. This, along with new netball courts, a second floodlit all-weather hockey pitch, and a new synthetic running track, really does put us in an excellent position to nurture the talents of our sporting students and allows children of all abilities the opportunity to improve their fitness and well-being. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave to the Sports Appeal and special thanks to all the parents, Old Ratcliffians and students who helped us create the 'Sport Matters' video which helped to launch the appeal.

1847 Society

Running alongside the **Ratcliffe2020** programme, and towards the close of 2018, we introduced the 1847 Society, enabling the College to formally recognise those generous and loyal supporters who have made provision in their Will for the benefit of the College. At an event last November on Remembrance Sunday the Headmaster invited supporters and friends to a special 'Benefactors Lunch', which followed a very beautiful Mass in the College Chapel to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice.

Sixth Form Careers

Following the appointment of a Head of Careers in the Sixth Form, The Development Team, along with the Ratcliffian Association, have worked together with Sixth Form staff to increase the support offered to our Year 12 & 13 students, including very successful careers mentoring fayres. More recently we have been piloting a new on-line alumni mentorship programme through the Association website, which is to be rolled out more widely next year.

Last year's Lower-Sixth Formers were offered the opportunity to bid for a share of £1,000 towards their own career development following a generous donation from an Old Ratcliffian. The donation was intended to support students at Ratcliffe who were facing the challenges associated with their next steps in life, and in particular to help them develop their thoughts on their careers or other roles post-Ratcliffe. Students were invited to enter a competition which required them to put together a proposal which set out how they would use the donated money to enhance their current studies (with equipment or software) or to attend a recommended careers programme or short course. The three successful students,

(now in Year 13) were Sophie, Rishi and Dhrumil, (pictured below) who all undertook courses during the summer of 2020.

One of the three successful students, Dhrumil Rajpara used his winning share to attend a Virtual Engineering internship, in which industrial experts from across the world hosted various sessions, from driverless vehicles to AI technology. He explains, "I found the session on nanotechnology particularly informative as we discussed the use of Buckminster Fullerene as a material to transport medicine such as insulin to targeted organs within the body. I was especially drawn to the concept of using engineering developed technology to help future generations cope with chronic conditions."



Bursary Fund

Over the last few years, the Refectory Chair Appeal has attracted over 80 donors, supporting the Bursary Fund with many Old Ratcliffians, or their families, choosing to remember their time at Ratcliffe with a personal engraving on a chair. Befittingly, the latest chair was engraved earlier this year, in memory of the late Paul Murphy (OR'67) and whose grand-daughters who are students here at Ratcliffe (pictured right) have a welcome reminder of him each day when they enter the Refectory for their lunch.



Most general bursarial support from fundraising appeals, such as the Refectory Chair appeal, has been directed in the main towards Sixth Form students, but we have also received valuable generous bursary support specifically for Year 7 Catholic families, and support for Boarding students. I am also pleased to report considerable success in securing funding from local charity (Sir Thomas White Charity), who are currently funding two Sixth Form 100% bursaries.

Despite the challenges facing all schools, Ratcliffe College is determined to continue to serve our School community to the very best of our ability, supporting those in most need, and successfully adapting our educational offer to ensure we continue to thrive in the future. I can assure you that we will be sure to keep the Bursary Fund as a priority within the College's future fundraising strategy going forwards.

Thank you

As we come to the close of **Ratcliffe 2020**, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over this year and previous years. Your support changes lives for students at Ratcliffe and enables so much more to be possible, *thank you*.

Mr Andrew Yell

Development Director