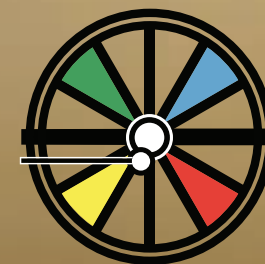




THE RADCLIFFE SCHOOL
BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES TOGETHER

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Headteacher's Welcome

Why choose The Radcliffe School?

Choosing a new school, whilst exciting, can be a daunting prospect and I am sure you will have many questions not only regarding what we offer academically, but how we can develop and support your child. Central to the ethos of The Radcliffe School is the development of each student as an individual as they build on their own unique talents and abilities. We understand the importance of developing the whole child and our school vision, structures and teaching and learning programmes are based upon building relationships and getting to know your child. We endeavour to provide a personalised education to support your child throughout their time at The Radcliffe. We believe that every child has the potential to be happy and successful and that comes by working in partnership with students, parents and community. The Friends of The Radcliffe is our PTA and has recently reformed to enable our parents to actively support the work of the school.

We have designed our prospectus to give you an insight into what your child will experience throughout their time at The Radcliffe School and how we work to Build Bright Futures Together.

The House System

The Radcliffe School is part of and serves a unique and diverse community. Our House System builds on the community ethos and enables our students to understand the importance of being part of a community and how each individual contributes to and works as part of a team to achieve goals together. The House communities each have a Head of House and an Assistant Head of House who work closely with their Form Tutors to get to know the students in their Houses and support students both academically and personally. All students are members of a small Tutor group with other year groups to encourage our students to develop positive relationships outside of their own peer group. Our Tutor programmes enable our students to develop the personal skills and character needed to become happy, confident and successful individuals who make a positive difference to people's lives.

Our Curriculum

At The Radcliffe School, we strive for our students to experience the feeling of personal achievement and success. The curriculum we offer at the school is central to enabling all of our students to achieve no matter their starting points, background or personal barriers. We build on the learning foundations laid in your child's Primary school by working closely with our Primary feeder schools. Building on core skills developed within English and Maths enables our students to access the full range of subjects we offer at The Radcliffe. Our curriculum offers a balanced but diverse experience and we believe that by offering a wide range of different subjects, students are well rounded and are given the best foundation on which to build the successful career possibilities that our curriculum provides.

Teaching and Learning

Learning is at the heart of everything we do at The Radcliffe School and making learning interesting for our students enables them to engage in lessons and make better progress. Teaching at The Radcliffe is very much a team effort and sharing ideas and the most effective methods which enable our students to make best progress is at the heart of our teaching philosophy. We are constantly developing our practice and work with a range of partners, including PiXL, to ensure our teachers are accessing the most innovative and creative ideas to bring into the classroom to support our students to learn more effectively.

Our Inclusion Team ably supports the learning of our students by providing our teaching team with expert knowledge on the best way to help students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to make progress and be successful. The school opened a specialist Social Communications Department in 2011, which provides additional support for students with Autism and Social Communication learning needs. Students with a specific Education, Health and Care Plan, are placed within the department by the Local Authority which is led by the school's Speech and Language Therapist and supported by highly trained Teaching Assistants.

Learning Opportunities

In addition to the exciting teaching and learning experiences provided across the different curriculum teams, there are also a wide range of learning opportunities which our students can access outside of the classroom. Working with others and as part of a team to achieve different goals enables our students to learn valuable skills crucial to the workplace and provide memorable experiences which they will remember for the rest of their lives. Opportunities in performance and music are increasing each year provided by our talented music and drama departments, supported by our expert peripatetic team, providing specialist instrumental music lessons. Our Sport and PE department runs a range of clubs and activities which can be accessed by students of all abilities and interests. Our school teams have enjoyed many successes over the years and regularly compete in a variety of fixtures. The House System provides an excellent range of opportunities for all students to be involved in and the House competitions run throughout the year. Competitions are run by all curriculum areas and offer opportunities for students to shine no matter what their interest. From sports to maths, every student can contribute to the House Trophies presented at the end of the school year.

The community ethos has always been strong at The Radcliffe and our A2B Team epitomises how students work together to support each other. A2B provides support through various activities from educating students about the different forms of bullying, providing very strong anti-bullying messages and supporting students who need to talk to someone. Volunteering to support and work within the community has always been an important part of The Radcliffe's ethos and with students taking part in many projects throughout the year. There are many leadership opportunities at the school, including the School Council and House Managers, where students can share their thoughts and ideas and work closely with the staff to continually improve the student's experience.

Our school provides an environment where children are supported to learn and develop into the considerate well rounded and successful individuals we are all so proud of.

Paula Lawson
Headteacher of The Radcliffe School

Welcome from the Chair of Governors

Hello and welcome to The Radcliffe School. As Governors we are extremely proud of the progress that we have made in the school over the past year. Whether it's achieving fantastic exam grades or taking part in many different sports and activities, we believe in offering individual opportunities for all of our students to grow and progress in their education. We know that you will find in Radcliffe a school where your children will flourish, achieving their full potential in a caring and challenging environment. It would be great to welcome your child to The Radcliffe next year.

Paul Critchley
Chair of Governors

Year 7 – The Year of Discovery

What to expect from Year 7

At The Radcliffe School, we believe all of our students have the potential to achieve anything they aim for in life. We provide a stimulating curriculum experience, and a culture of aspiration and ambition by developing leadership of self, others and the wider community. Every member of our community is encouraged to 'belong' through a sense of contribution, responsibility, ownership and confidence which is seen in the pride our students have for their school.

Teaching and Learning

At The Radcliffe School we pride ourselves on ensuring that all students are successful in their learning. In order to do this, we ensure our students have a broad and balanced curriculum which is relevant and in the best interest of our learners. We focus on supporting all students to make exceptional progress in all subjects that they are studying. Our curriculum focuses on high expectations of achievement for all; this is supported through the highly personalised teaching in the classroom. Our curriculum teams closely liaise with our Primary school colleagues to ensure students' learning experiences are replicated in our classrooms to support the transition to a Secondary school curriculum.

Getting Involved

At The Radcliffe School we understand that it is not solely academic achievements that develop young people and prepares them for their future. We offer a wide range of opportunities for students to develop themselves, their skills and abilities. Our extensive extra-curricular programme offers something for everyone with all of our subjects offering clubs and enrichment activities.

There are an array of volunteering and leadership activities available for all year 7 students to apply for that includes House Manager, Student Council Representative, A2B Ambassador and Community Event Guides.



Year 8 – The Year of Choices



What to expect from Year 8

Year 8 at The Radcliffe School is a time to consolidate the success of Year 7 and to look to the exciting times ahead. The Year 8 curriculum builds on the knowledge and skills of students allowing them to understand their strengths. The focus of this year is on the choices that students make in the spring about the curriculum they will follow in Key Stage 4. Students and parents will be led through this process ensuring that current strengths and future aspirations are taken into account.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning in Year 8 builds on the foundation of Year 7 and learning becomes a little more independent. Teachers will be helping students to develop their knowledge of how they learn to help this. It is also a time to try out GCSE taster sessions so students can make better informed choices. This not only includes subjects they already take, but also new ones such as Business Studies, Photography, Sociology and Child Development. Teachers will advise students and parents if their subject is a good choice for GCSE. This is a difficult choice for students in Year 8 but they will be helped every step of the way.

Getting Involved

As well as achieving academically, Year 8 students need opportunities to develop confidence, identify and solve problems, make thoughtful decisions and build good relationships. Students are expected to contribute to what is a wide and thriving school community. They are encouraged to take responsibility in many areas of the school and always rise to the challenge. Learning does not stop at the school gates and there are a range of educational visits that further embed a student's passion for their subjects.

Year 9 – The Year of Exploration

What to expect from Year 9

Year 9 gives students the opportunity to explore their new chosen subjects. Following on from the options process, students now embark on a bespoke broad and balanced curriculum which supports their talents and future ambitions. As students enter Key Stage 4 they will continue to develop their independent learning skills within the context of their personalised curriculum.

Teaching and Learning

Key Stage 4 sees students delve deeper into both core subjects and new option choice subjects. In all curriculum areas students will focus more explicitly on exam expectations and criteria and begin to apply learning to the GCSE content. Students will be able to link their learning to career aspirations and future pathways.

Getting Involved

Extra-curricular opportunities in Key Stage 4 continue to provide support for academic studies with homework clubs and support sessions as well as sport, performing arts and creative opportunities. All students have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (Bronze), which is a nationally accredited award scheme which gives our Year 9 students opportunities in the areas of Volunteering, Physical Activities, Skills and Expedition.



Year 10 – The Year of Development

What to expect from Year 10

By Year 10, our students are starting to refine their independent learning skills and ambitions. We provide a number of opportunities for students to improve their outcomes through a range of opportunities. Every member of Year 10 is encouraged to be motivated in their own learning by meeting their coursework deadlines, attending additional sessions which we offer across a range of subjects and completing independent research and revision.

Teaching and Learning

During Year 10, students will be focused on learning the skills and content needed for their final exams in the subjects they are studying. We recognise that a lot of the skills needed are transferable across a range of subjects and focus on emphasising this to the students through cross-curricular links. There is a focus on students developing their ability to apply knowledge from other subjects and independent learning to improve their outcomes. Our high expectations of progress for all ensure that students develop the skills necessary to take their final exams with confidence is a priority.

Getting Involved

By Year 10, students have explored the wide range of extra-curricular activities we offer and had regular involvement with those that they are interested in. With the start of their GCSE courses, there are a number of internal and external extra-curricular opportunities for students to develop their knowledge and skills for the final exams; students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning by attending these. There is also the opportunity for the Year 10 students to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.

The volunteering and leadership opportunities continue into Year 10 and GCSE students are often assigned to monitoring roles within tutor groups and their House. Leadership of School Council as most senior members.



Year 11 – The Year of Achievement

What to expect from Year 11

There is no denying that in Year 11 there is a sharp focus on all students achieving their potential across the full range of subjects. We aim to ensure that students are well-rounded both in terms of academic success and the character to be successful in life and therefore have the widest range of opportunities post-16. During what is undoubtedly a challenging year each student will be fully supported throughout in terms of academic support, pastoral guidance and also with a clear eye on what the next steps may be whether at Sixth Form, College, apprenticeships or employment.

Teaching and Learning

We are fully aware that exam success is extremely important to the life chances of our students. In order to strive to the highest outcomes for our students it is crucial that students are fully aware of their current performance in terms of strengths, areas to improve and more importantly strategies for how to improve. As a result, much of the classroom time will be spent focusing on exam technique and addressing misconceptions whilst providing all students with revision strategies and the resilience to overcome any barriers they may face.

Getting Involved

Getting involved in Year 11 takes a slightly different form as there is an understandable focus on academic support. This involves an extensive range of curriculum based provision which includes external speakers and focused revision sessions. Although there is a significant focus on the academic there is still a variety of other opportunities including inter-House activities, sports leadership and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to mention just a few.

There are several leadership opportunities for students in Year 11 to engage with including the prestigious posts of Head Boy and Head Girl among others.

Year 11 is also the time when students engage fully in what is to offer post-16. This involves personalised meetings with every student and their parents to discuss opportunities available as well as experiences of Sixth Form life or more appropriate alternatives where necessary.



Sixth Form – The Years of Independence

What to expect from Year 12/13

The Radcliffe School Sixth Form expects our students to work hard, show independence and participate in the wider life of the school and local community. We encourage emotional resilience and expect students to be tolerant, thoughtful and respectful towards staff and each other. We offer a caring, supportive and positive environment where students can fulfil their potential and successfully transition to the next step of their chosen path. Our curriculum enables students to achieve their potential and prepare them for their next steps.

Teaching and Learning

Sixth Form courses develop each student's knowledge and skills, bridging the gap between GCSEs and University. Learning in the Sixth Form extends beyond the classroom and thus we expect students to be independent learners who are able to take ownership of their own learning. Students are taught to know their strengths and areas for improvement and how to develop these to achieve their best possible outcome.

Getting Involved

We recognise that it is not solely academic achievements that develop young adults and prepares them for their future. We offer a wide range of opportunities for students to develop themselves, their skills and their readiness for the world of work. The Sixth Form have a variety of volunteering activities to make a positive contribution to the school and the local community:

- Volunteering opportunities including mentoring programmes.
- Supporting Year 7 and Year 8 with literacy and numeracy.
- Leadership of school activities such as the performance running/backstage.
- Development of their personal statement/CV ready for next stage university/work.

Some of the Leadership opportunities in the Sixth Form include: Head students, Deputy Head students, Student Council roles, A2B Ambassadors and Student Mentors.