



# THE RADCLIFFE SCHOOL

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES TOGETHER

***'It is the best school in the world.'***

Year 9 Pupil - OFSTED Report 2020



# 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 curriculum 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 School.

We have high expectations of ourselves always striving to improve, never being complacent. We have an ambitious three year development plan linked to a long term curriculum plan. By developing partnerships both locally and nationally we are determined to give our students the skills and knowledge to compete on the world stage.

Our digital strategy demonstrates our ambitions to enable our students to access iPads to develop their digital literacy and support learning. Students from Year 8 will use an iPad in lessons and at home to accelerate progress.

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. We also take our ethical responsibility to our current and future communities seriously, looking at how we can reduce our carbon footprint, increasing environmental awareness and to be more sustainable as an organisation. Projects, led by students, range from increasing bike storage facilities through to reducing single use plastics.

This is a particularly exciting time to join The Radcliffe School as major work begins to build a purpose built Sixth Form Centre that will be open in September 2021. This will provide further opportunities to review the accommodation across the school to benefit all students.

We hope that you find our prospectus informative and 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 to Inspire and Achieve.

## 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 vertical tutor group to encourage our students to develop positive relationships outside of their own peer group. Our tutor programme enables 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.

Every student follows a comprehensive tutorial programme that adapts to the needs of the students as they progress through the school, following four main concepts of Reading, Global Awareness, Mentoring and LORIC (Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication).

## Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to build resilient learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills to be responsible and effective members of the community locally and internationally, and in doing so transform life chances in a way which supports positive outcomes for our students.

We strive for our students to experience the feelings 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, Maths and Science enables our students to access the full range of subjects we offer at The Radcliffe School. 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.

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. Developing students is at the centre of our teaching philosophy, with staff, parents and students

working as a team to inspire our community to achieve their full potential. We are constantly refining 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 provides our teaching team with specialist knowledge to support students with special educational needs and disabilities to make progress and be successful. We have a specialist Social Communications Department, 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.

We are committed to serving our community recognising the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever-changing nature of the modern Britain that we live in. We have a vital role in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them. We follow equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. We are dedicated to preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its students.

## Learning Opportunities

In addition to the exciting curriculum provided across the different subject areas, 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 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 at local, regional and national level. The House System provides an excellent range of opportunities for all students to be involved in 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 School and our A2B Team epitomise 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 School's ethos 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

Thank you for your interest in The Radcliffe School. It is great to be able to write this introduction after celebrating the fantastic achievements from across the school over the past twelve months. We are as equally proud of our exam results and student destinations, as we are of the way that our House structures bring pupils together with a real sense of collective purpose. Our sports teams have worn their team kits with pride, representing the school in a wide range of fixtures.

Our vision to Build Brighter Futures Together is centred on giving each and every individual student at the school access to high quality education, as well as a diversity of experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Our improvement journey across the school continues, and we welcome you to join us in September.

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.

## Curriculum

The first steps of your curriculum journey at The Radcliffe School begin in Year 7.

In each of your subject areas you will begin to explore the different concepts that will be built upon through your seven year curriculum. You will not only be developing subject knowledge and skills but you will also be supported to start to develop your personal skills through LORIC. Staff will identify students' areas of strength and areas to improve using Personalised Learning Checklists (PLC's), taking steps to address any gaps or misconceptions in their learning.

## 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.

In recognition of the essential skills required to be successful in school, the workplace, and in life, literacy and numeracy are woven through the curriculum in each subject area. Where identified, specific support is provided either through the Accelerated Learning Group or via bespoke programmes.

Students will have their first taste of life beyond school. This will be delivered through workplace encounters to broaden their awareness of possible career paths, as well as building confidence by talking to adults/employers.

# Year 8 – The Year of Exploration

## What to Expect from Year 8

To complement the core subjects of Maths, English, Science and PE, Year 8 students will have access to a broad curriculum which enables them to have a comprehensive understanding of different cultures, societies outside of their own community. All students study a subject from the creative arts area of the curriculum, so students learn different ways to express their ideas and have the opportunity to develop creativity and problem solving skills.

## Curriculum

The curriculum will build on subject knowledge and skills which allow students to link concepts within a particular subject, as well as between subjects. Previous knowledge and skills will be revisited and areas to be improved and misconceptions addressed through PLCs. This will provide the foundations for strengthening future learning and allow concepts to be applied in a variety of contexts.

Students will be employing all of the LORIC skills in a way that has a positive impact on their own learning as well as the school and the wider community. They will have an opportunity to nationally accredit these at Apprentice level. Students will broaden their experiences with further workplace encounters developing the skills identified by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) framework.

Literacy and numeracy continue to be key focus areas, as students continue to develop subject specific vocabulary. Appropriate tailored support will be provided where necessary.

## Getting Involved

Year 8 students will have access to a range of extra-curricular opportunities to develop confidence, identify and solve problems, make thoughtful decisions and build good relationships. Students are expected to contribute to what is a diverse 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 learning.

# Year 9 – The Year of Choices

## What to Expect from Year 9

Year 9 at The Radcliffe School is a time to consolidate the success of year 7 and Year 8 and to look to the exciting times ahead. The curriculum builds on the knowledge and skills of students allowing them to understand their strengths and address areas to improve. Near the end of Year 9, students will choose from a range of subjects to take through to the end of Year 11.

## Curriculum

Students will continue to develop their understanding of the bigger picture by building on the concepts introduced in Year 7 and Year 8 across each subject. Staff will ensure that students are provided with the opportunity to revisit knowledge and skills in order to contextualise their understanding.

Students will build upon the early work started in Years 7 and 8 to develop resilience whilst planning, monitoring, and evaluating their own learning. This will encourage them to become more independent learners, known in school as metacognition. They will be increasingly using an academic range of subject specific vocabulary which will be essential in understanding source material and being able to articulate responses.

As students progress through the school and are developing their personal skills, there are further opportunities for national accreditation through LORIC.

Workplace encounters continue for students building on skills developed in Years 7 and 8 with the opportunity for 1:1 career discussions with our Careers, Education, Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) advisor.

## Getting Involved

Extra-curricular opportunities 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 giving our 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 the end of Year 10 students will have a rounded view of subject concepts and well developed knowledge and skills which can be recalled and applied to a variety of concepts. Students will continue to develop their metacognitive skills and will be able to articulate the strategies they employ. They will continue to develop their understanding of their next steps and will experience a work placement.

## Curriculum

Students will have a secure understanding of what is required in each subject area and will now become more proficient in recalling knowledge and the application of skills. The curriculum will continue to support the development of personal and employability skills. Students will be fluent in their use of subject specific vocabulary and the numeracy skills required across all subjects.

## Getting Involved

Students continue to explore the wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer and take an active role in House Competitions across all subject areas. The volunteering and leadership opportunities continue, which include roles within Tutor Groups, their House, and the local community. Duke of Edinburgh students can build on their experience at Bronze Award and take the next steps by participating in the Silver Award.



# 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, Apprenticeship or Employment.

## Curriculum

Students will be able to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the knowledge and skills required in each subject area making links between concepts both within the subject and to other subject areas. Students will be able to successfully recall previous learning, using the strategies gained throughout previous years. Students will continue to develop their personal skills, working from the Master level to Graduate level.

Students will develop their employability skills to a stage where they are effective and have a solid understanding of their importance in the workplace. You will receive personalised support from our CEIAG Advisor ensuring that the next steps are the most appropriate for each individual.

## Getting Involved

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. Students can participate in the National Citizen Service (NCS) which is a national scheme to support the development of self-awareness, confidence and social skills. 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.



# Sixth Form – The Years of Independence

## What to Expect from Year 12/13

The Radcliffe School Sixth Form expects 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.

## Curriculum

Sixth Form courses develop each student's knowledge and skills, supporting the transition between GCSEs and Post 16. 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.

In the Sixth Form we are developing the skills students need for their next stages in life, whether that be Further Education or the workplace. Our aim is to ensure students have the knowledge, skills and strategies that enables them to function as a well-equipped learner and be effective individuals within society. Students have access to a wide range of careers support through their two years in the

sixth form, including online careers packages, 1:1 support, apprenticeship information, employment data and university information. Work experience opportunities are made available, as well as summer school, research placements and employment talks.

## 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:

- Mentoring programmes.
- Supporting Year 7 and Year 8 with literacy and numeracy.
- Leadership of school activities.
- 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.





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