

## IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

23rd September –27th September  
Y7 CATS tests

Monday 23rd September  
German students visiting Ratton  
Early closure for students 1.40pm

Thursday 26th September  
International Day of Languages  
Succeeding in Y11 evening 5.15pm

Friday 27th September  
Future First Alumni event 6.00pm

Monday 30th September  
Parents' support meeting with  
Andrew Wright 6.00pm

Thursday 3rd October  
Inset day—school closed to students  
Open Evening

*Dates may be subject to change—please  
check the website for the most up-to-date  
calendar of events*

**Dear Parents, Carers and friends of Ratton School,**

I'm pleased to take this opportunity to introduce myself as Head of School, at the beginning of what promises to be a busy and exciting new academic year. As we near the end of our first few weeks back at school, I have been very impressed with our students' engagement in their learning and their behaviour around the building. It has also been gratifying to see our new Year 7 students settle so well; I've been emphasising that as a new member of the school community we are learning together too, and I've enjoyed many conversations with Year 7 students as we have hunted for their classrooms together!

Over the past weeks I have introduced myself in assembly and visited many lessons to get to know the students a little better. In my assemblies I have also been talking about 'Living the Virtues'. As you know, at Ratton we strive to build character and give a well-rounded education that emphasises the social, as well as importantly, the academic. Our virtues are key to everything we do make Ratton more successful day by day. I have been struck by the number of students who I have seen live those virtues day by day, for example, by showing respect by opening doors for members of the school community, and by demonstrating effort in lessons by completing challenging tasks with impeccable presentation in their workbooks. I also shared a quote by the ancient Greek writer Euripides, who said 'Question everything. Learn something.' I think Euripides was suggesting that we need to be active learners and engage in the world around us to learn. I spoke to students about my expectation that students took responsibility alongside adults working with them, to learn.

We start the new academic year on the foundation of another set of very pleasing exam results, which is testament to the effort and commitment of last year's Year 11 students and also the expertise and commitment of what I have already come to recognise as a very talented group of teaching and associate staff. In many subject areas we outperformed previous national average GCSE results, and early data indicates that in a range of subjects we sit in the top 20% of schools nationally. However, we aim to improve on this performance and our vision for Ratton over the coming years is to become a top 20% school nationally in all subjects. I look forward to working with all in the school and local community to reach this challenging, yet realistic goal.

Finally, I look forward to meeting parents and carers over the following weeks at school events to start to build those relationships that are so vital in ensuring that we achieve excellence together.

Best wishes,

Mr Peevers, Head of School



BRITISH  
COUNCIL  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL AWARD

**British Council  
International School  
Award Success for  
Ratton School!**

*(see inside cover)*

## STARTING RATTON IN SEPTEMBER 2020

As you know, we have our Open Evening on Thursday 3rd October and look forward to welcoming many of you to this exciting and informative evening for prospective students.

If you would like the brother or sister of a current Ratton student to start here in Year 7 next September, you must remember to apply for a place by no later than the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

## British Council International School Award Success

We are thrilled we have been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of our work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world.

Our international work includes twinning links with schools in Malta and Germany, an exciting link with a school in China, International Day of Languages, Foods of the World project, international themed assemblies and many more activities.

On hearing the news that Ratton had received the award, International Coordinator Cathy Dean said, ***"We are delighted to receive this award for the sixth time and to gain recognition for the constantly developing international work and activities taking place at Ratton. We have lots of plans for the future and we are so pleased for all students and staff who have been so enthusiastic about helping to ensure all our students are truly global citizens."***

Sir Ciarán Devane, CEO of the British Council, said, ***"The school's fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they're doing to bring the world into their classrooms. Embedding an international dimension in children's education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful lives and careers in an increasingly global economy."***

The award, which celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, is now available worldwide in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Over 6000 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community



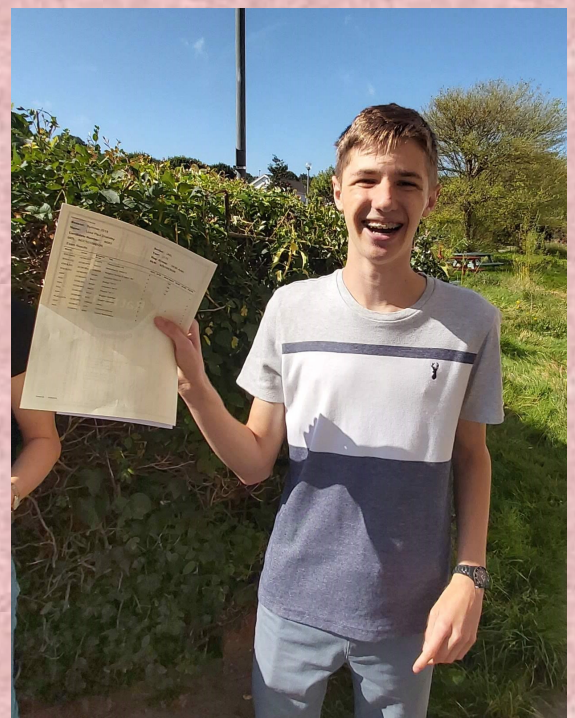
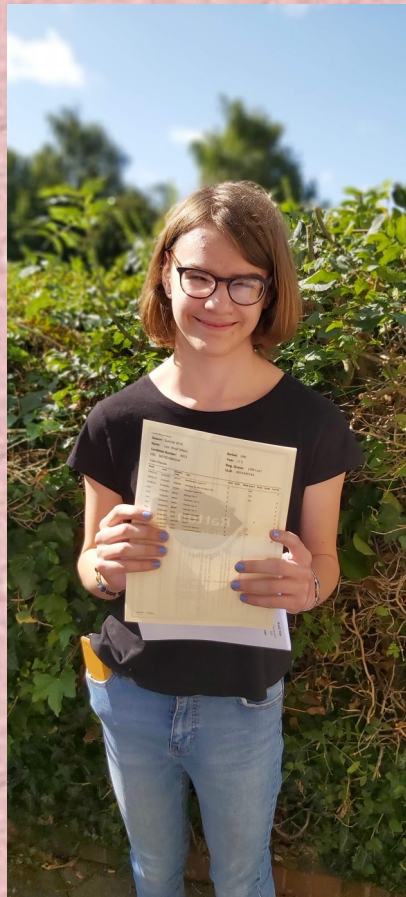
# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

# EXAM RESULTS DAY 2019!

The morning of 22nd August was well attended by Year 11 students with lots of smiling faces and celebration from students and parents/carers – a great reminder of what it is all about!

Huge congratulations to all our past students on their fantastic exam results and we wish them all good luck for the future. Particular mention goes to Lounis Berkou, Callum Halton, James De Savigny, Menna Evans, Indya-Jayne Wardle, Maia Woolf, Matthew Laing,

Leah Upton, Benjamin Hinchcliffe, Ella Vaney and Lily Aston who all achieved fabulous exam results. Also, to Aisha Glynne-Percy, Lily Dixon, Michalina Guzicka, Khadijah Uddin, Jack Matthews, Lily Deadman, Holly Hutley, Christina Butt, Catalina Valero and Jamie Lyon who made the most amazing progress during their time at Ratton.



# ENRICHMENT WEEK WORK EXPERIENCE



As part of Enrichment Week and a new initiative to Ratton's extensive careers programme, 50 of our Year 10 students had the opportunity to sign up to work experience which took place during the last week of the July term. This huge new project involved securing safe and worthwhile work experience placements for our students as well as confirming students who had found their own placements.



Our students spent their work experience placements in a wide variety of businesses which included a garage, care home, junior school, animal welfare centre, dance school, supermarket, hotels, activity centre, veterinary centre, theatre, water sports centre, electricians, nursery school, music rehearsal studio, pharmacy, restaurant, shop, hairdressing salon and more!

Our students had the opportunity to find out all about life working in a real work place and they all made the most of their



opportunity. Our Year 10 work experience students have learnt some valuable skills including resilience, time keeping, teamwork, responsibility, communication, self-confidence and a strong work ethic! They learned these and other new skills, met new people, carried out new tasks, used new equipment, enjoyed a new environment and met new challenges! Some are even hoping to gain a Saturday job with their work experience employer when they are old enough!

This new initiative was a great success with all of our students successfully completing their work experience programmes. A huge thank you goes out to all of the wonderful employers who hosted our work experience students and gave them an insight into the real world of work!



Many congratulations to our students who have earned the highest number of achievement points from 4th September—12th September

| YEAR 7            | YEAR 8          | YEAR 9                 | YEAR 10             | YEAR 11               |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Charlotte Du-Prat | Ariana Shapol   | Krishna Hughes-Shellam | Ella Harris         | Saskia Seguin         |
| Larissa Starkey   | Lea Ducat       | Natalie Geal           | Kelsey Wallace      | Amelia Poore          |
| Rhiannon Sowdon   | Morgan Penfold  | Amelie Poppitt-Jones   | Megan Lower Du Cann | Beatriz Pereira       |
| Sophie Brook      | Chloe Smith     | Folly Stanley          | Eadie Cole          | Tia Munn              |
| Bethany Luck      | Kitty Hartland  | Finn Warner            | Laila Whiteman      | Abbie Lewis-Clarke    |
| Cody Wilkinson    | Elliott Creese  | Halit Turak            | Callum Nicholls     | Rhys Parrott          |
| Daniel Whitmore   | Dan Baldock     | Freddie Osborn         | Sammy Chambers      | Bradley Walker        |
| Eden Ball         | Thomas Burbidge | Jakub Pasnik           | Reuben Hewitt-Bloom | Can Boran             |
| Blake Millar      | Lucas Taylor    | Joe Westlake           | Tyler Bradley       | Daniel Shadbolt-Smith |
| Jem Wilson        | Freddie Wallis  |                        | William Stocker     | Harvey Breach         |
|                   | Jason Thuku     |                        |                     | Jack Trubshaw         |
|                   |                 |                        |                     | Joel Rand             |
|                   |                 |                        |                     | Max Lawrence-Mele     |



# WELLBEING MATTERS

Ratton is proud of its commitment to the wellbeing of staff and students and we have achieved the Optimus Wellbeing Award for Schools.

## The Ratton Virtues



Compassion



Respect



Creativity



Teamwork



Effort



Responsibility

A state of wellbeing is one where we feel healthy and at ease with ourselves. We are managing our daily lives well and feel optimistic for the future.

In this part of the newsletter I will share strategies for improving wellbeing and signpost areas of support.

I am very passionate about promoting emotional health and wellbeing and this is my third year of sharing my strategies and wellbeing tips with you. Thanks to everyone who has given me positive feedback or shared ideas - I really appreciate it.

When it comes to emotional health, our lives are often very busy and we don't always stop to take a breath and check in ourselves. As it is a brand new academic year it is worth reminding ourselves of the 4 foundations that we all need to ensure our wellbeing.

First we have to consider **nutrition** - making sure we get some fruit and vegetables in our diet everyday. This give us the vitamins and minerals we need to boost our mood. There are some really good tips for how to incorporate this into a busy life on the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/5-a-day-on-the-go/>

Secondly, exercise is great for our mental health as well as our physical health. Regular exercise is a guaranteed mood booster, even more so if it is done outside. There are loads of great exercise apps that are free to download and can give a motivational boost. I like the 'One You' service as it gives a health check and suggests manageable tasks for improving wellbeing <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/active10/home>

The third thing to keep in mind is how much sleep you are getting. Most adult need 6-8 hours sleep to function well. Any less and you may find yourself irritable or lacking in concentration. Young people do need more sleep, 8-10 hours. Whatever your age, having a regular bedtime and sticking to it can help you get the most refreshing sleep.

Lastly, we all need to be able to ask for help when we need it. If you have concerns about emotional wellbeing there is help available. GPs are a good place to start or if you think you just need more information there is a great website called mind.org that has lots of great advice. Of course Ratton staff will do everything they can to support students or their families who may need help. If you need help with any worries or concerns, please get in touch with the student's Head of Community.

All Well Wishes, Ms.Bryden



As part of an incentive to improve students' vocabulary, we have introduced a word of the week. There are posters displayed in every tutor room, as well as on the plasma screens, and students are rewarded for using any of the words in their verbal or written responses.

This week the word was **Liaise** (to speak to and link with other people in order to work effectively)

# Welcome to the new Academic Year

Our Attendance Target for the year is 96% and above

It is important that we know where your children are every school day

## ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Good school attendance means.....



PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS

Will read well by the end of year 3



JUNIOR SCHOOL PUPILS

Will be confident and ready for high school



HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS

Have more chance of achieving their full potential



COLLEGE STUDENTS

Will create more opportunities for their future's



Employees

Will succeed in their careers

Too many absences, authorised or unauthorised will stop pupils from succeeding in school and in life.

## Attendance Matters

If your child cannot attend school (for whatever reason) please use the Edulink App in the first instance and contact school before 8.30am every day of absence

You can also call the attendance telephone number on 01323 504011 - extn 122

If you have any concerns over attendance please contact your child's Community Team or myself on 01323 504011

Thank you for your support and understanding with the importance of attendance to school

Mrs Saunderson,  
Attendance Improvement Officer



**On Time, All Day, Every Day**

**ATTENDANCE COUNTS**

# Free School Meals at Ratton

At the beginning of a new school year we thought it would be worth reminding you of the accessibility of Free School Meals. All parents can check (but particularly for those who are new to the school or whose circumstances have changed); you can qualify if you receive one of the following benefits:

[Universal Credit](#) – your household income must be under £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

[Income Support](#)

Income-based [Jobseekers Allowance](#)

Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)

Support under [Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)

The Guaranteed element of State [Pension Credit](#)

**Child Tax Credit only**, if your annual household income isn't over £16,190. **Anyone getting [Working Tax Credit](#) won't get free meals regardless of income**

Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If you believe you might be eligible then complete the form which can be found on the website (under “Parents – Free School Meals”) or collected from reception. For every child that receives free meals the school also receives additional funding, called the Pupil Premium Grant. This is used to fund staffing, equipment and trips and is of immense benefit to the school, so if you feel you meet the criteria then please do apply.

**We would like to remind all parents/carers of the code of practice when dropping off and picking up your child/children from school:**

Please don't:

- Block the road - emergency vehicles and other traffic may need access;
- Park on yellow lines, zig-zags, block the school entrance or come down the school drive;
- Park on the pavement, across dropped kerbs or residents' driveways;
- Park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction;
- Park where you will cause inconvenience to other road users;
- Leave your vehicle with the engine still running;
- Stop in the middle of the road to drop your child off, even for a few seconds.

These changes make a real difference to the congestion around school, making it less stressful and far safer for everyone. Not only that but they will help your child's education. Research has shown that children who walk or cycle to school are more receptive to learning at the start of the school day than those who travel to school by car .

