

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 16th December

MUFTI—Seasonal Jumper Day

Christmas Lunch in Refresh

Christmas Concert 7pm

Thursday 17th December

Y11 Love Life Day

Friday 18th December

Last day of Term 2 3.15pm

CHRISTMAS BREAK

21st December—4th January



Tuesday 5th January

First day of Term 3 8.45am

Reflections at the end of the year

The end of one year and the beginning of another is always an important time. It provides the opportunity to reflect, celebrate achievements and plan how to achieve your goals.

Looking back at the term, I think we should be proud about the achievements of all our students and staff and the way we demonstrate our values. At the recent Year 8 Parents/Carers Evening it was inspiring to hear about so many students rising to the challenge of making good or better progress in the broad range of subjects they follow at school. My challenge to all students for 2016 is to maintain their focus on academic excellence, while making sure that they are enjoying the wide range of activities available before, during and after school.

The Christmas Concert on Wednesday 16th December is the last major school event this term and will be a very festive celebration of music and song. Tickets are available in advance from the Finance Office and cost £2 for adults and £1 for children/concessions.

Please enjoy this newsletter and have an enjoyable Christmas break and a Happy New Year.

Mr Knox-Macaulay, Headteacher

Heather lights up the town!

On Tuesday 8th December at 5.30pm Heather Chisnell (Y11) represented Ratton School and turned on the Christmas Lights at the Town Hall. The light show organised by the Chamber of Commerce took us through 700 years of Eastbourne history and was truly spectacular!

Congratulations

Many congratulations to our highest achieving students whose hard work and commitment we are proud to recognise.

These students are identified for having received the highest number of rewards allocated by all staff for the relevant week and are awarded for various contributions - such as outstanding work on a longer project, good effort in class, effort in tutor time and participation in

an extra-curricular activity to name but a few!

Week ended 27th November

Joshua Chin, Jesse-Louise McWilton-Edgar, Catalina Valero, Rowenna Moss, Oscar Price and Nicole Booker

Week ended 4th December

Zuzanna Kleka, Adam Milsom-Smith, Kerry Davies, Summer Elliott, Eion Bevens, Lily Hookham and Katy Allingham



Ratton After-School Cookery Club



The Year 7 Club enjoyed their last evening before Christmas decorating their *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* cakes and huge fun was had by all!

The club is attended by 20 students who have made a variety of scrumptious baked items this term under the guidance of the lovely Mrs Manger.



Politics and Fairness...



A group of year 9 students travelled to the University of Sussex for a special day focused on Politics and the idea of fairness.

The group, which comprised of students already interested in following a future in the corridors of power, got to see how unfair life really was when they played a throwing game with the odds stacked against them and then took on the role of a shamed athlete who had been accused of doping.

The day was a great success and really helped students understand that sometimes, life isn't fair. But hey, that's politics for you!

Miss Jensen

Young Enterprise - *watch this space*

Horizon and Initium, the two Ratton School Young Enterprise Companies in Year 10 have got off to a flying start.

Currently they are frantically trying to raise share capital in order to fund their business ideas. They have all signed up for the key directorial roles and opened bank accounts ready to begin trading and are meeting regularly to plan their next steps.

Watch out for them next term and don't forget to come and support them at Eastbourne Arndale Centre on Saturday 6th February 2016.

Mr Jones

**And the winner of the 'Design a Christmas Card' Competition is...
Tobi Wylde in Year 7 -
CONGRATULATIONS TOBI!**



Designed by Tobi Wylde (Year 7)

Sussex Schools' Sports Acrobatics & Gymnastics Competition 2015

Bright and early on Saturday 28th November, 9 budding gymnasts from Ratton School (years 7, 8 and 10) 'took to the stage' at this annual competition held at the University of Brighton. Our gymnasts had been carefully creating their routines up to 8 weeks prior to the big day - and big day it certainly was! 23 schools and up to 300 gymnasts competed at the event and there were over 300 spectators. However the squad did not seem phased by the crowd and were very focussed, composed and professional.

The day began with the performers' first 'march on'; a presentation to the audience. There was then the chance to warm up on the floor before the events commenced. Each Ratton student supported one another throughout the day; whether it was practicing together before their performances or taking responsibility for knowing when and where they were due to perform. The girls also made certain that each of their performances were videoed.

The standard of gymnastics displayed was unbelievable at times and it was a privilege to see, and very inspiring for everyone present - the Ratton team watched with appreciation and demonstrated perfect patience throughout the day as they waited for their turn. Students also stayed the whole day to support even if they had finished their performance which shows true sportsmanship.



Even after this busy day, duo Holly and Ches were also due to perform at a second gymnastics competition the following day! The girls confirmed that they would return once again next year, for their final Sussex Schools' competition before they enter the extra demands of year 11!

Well done once again to all of the girls who competed; Crystal, Vanessa, Ches, Holly, Esher, Amy, Aaliyah, Wiktorina and Michalina. Fantastic!

Ratton Yr 7 Boys Basketball vs Cavendish WON 36-9!

On Wednesday 2nd December the Year 7 boys had their first ever competitive Basketball fixture playing against Cavendish.

Ratton dominated the game throughout and once taking an early lead never looked back. The final score was 36-9 to Ratton!

It was a great team performance with all players contributing baskets and assists in offence whilst also maintaining solid defence. Well done to all the team - next game is vs Bishop Bell on Wednesday 16th! Special mention to Liam Matthews for great assistance with scoring.

Squad Names:

Elijas Sadabra, Tom Lester, Tom Perry, Scott Matthews, Max Lawrence-Mele, Jack Trubshaw, Alex Tear





The 'Big Vote 2015' is an election process for 11-18 year olds in East Sussex. Students at the school voted for the young person they want to represent Eastbourne along with the two campaign issues they want the newly elected Youth Cabinet to work on.

This year 12 candidates (including our very own **Indya-Jayne Wardle!**) stood in the Eastbourne election hoping to win one of 6 coveted seats on the East Sussex Youth Cabinet.

Students were shown two films before voting, which put the election into context and allowed the candidates to introduce themselves through 45-second film clips of each of the candidates standing in Eastbourne.

The ballot papers were collected and posted back to County Hall. We wish Indya the best of luck! In 2013, over 11,000 of students voted. This year we aimed to ensure even more voices to make a difference!

We are a zero tolerance school concerning bullying and have adopted a simplified 'if it looks or feels like bullying then it is' definition. This year, to celebrate anti-bullying week, we asked tutors to have personal conversations with their tutees regarding bullying behaviour. The school made available a wide range of resources from a number of anti-bullying organisations, including Anti-Bullying Works, E-Safety Support, Bullying UK and The Anti-Bullying Alliance.



Anti-bullying week
Monday 16th November – Friday 20th November




The resources included an interactive YouTube video, Who Wants to be a Millionaire anti-bullying PowerPoint, resources on cyberbullying, banter versus bullying, speaking out about bullying and celebrating our core values. We also challenged tutees to sign up to never being a bystander to bullying behaviour and teasing language - each tutor group now has the list of students who refuse to accept bullying in the school.

EASTBOURNE TREE OF LIGHT

The Tree of Light has been a local event in Eastbourne for the last 17 years. It is organised by the Eastbourne Rotary Club and is an event that can be attended by those who wish to remember loved ones at Christmas.



The short service, in the foyer of the Congress Theatre, includes readings and prayers by members of the Rotary Club.



Ratton School has taken part in this event for the past 15 Years and this year the Chamber Choir sang two songs as part of the service. The service culminates in a prayer by the tree, in front of the Congress Theatre, and the lights are switched on. White ribbons are provided for those who wish to tie ribbons on the tree in memory of a loved one. Over the Christmas period the lights on the tree can be seen by all who pass by.

COPIES OF KEY POLICIES CAN BE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE INCLUDING OUR CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING POLICY