

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 25th May

Y10 Dance Showcase 3.45pm

Friday 27th May

Early closure for Y7-10 1pm

Year 11 Valediction
Ceremony 1.30pm

May Break

Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June

Monday 6th June

First day of Term 6 8.40am

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 6th May

Samuel Wright, Milli Longman,
Jordan Belgrave and Jessica Smith

Week ended 13th May

Kai Stallard, Aluna Vale, George
Weston and Jevan Cousins

“THE PRICE OF GREATNESS IS RESPONSIBILITY” *Winston Churchill*

At the beginning of Term 6 we will all be working hard on developing our approach to an important value - **Responsibility**. As a school community, responsibility means accepting that your choices and actions will help your learning. We expect that our students take responsibility for all parts of school life from learning to high standards of behaviour and attendance and being properly equipped and punctual.

The start of a new term is always a good time to refresh those things that we believe are important and will help further develop a flourishing school community.

Looking at all the articles in this newsletter, ranging from University graduation through to sporting success, this edition has lots of evidence of our students taking responsibility. All the success you read about has come through being in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing.

This is the last newsletter before the mid-term break so I hope you have an enjoyable break and wish all students doing exams, especially Year 11, continued good luck.

Mr Knox-Macaulay, Headteacher

Year 9 Students Graduate at University of Sussex First Generation Graduation Ceremony

On Thursday 5th May our Year 9 First Generation Scholars took part in a Graduation Ceremony at the University's Falmer Campus.



Our students were able to celebrate their achievements and hard work during the Making Choices programme.

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Ratton hosts an evening with Dorit Oliver-Wolff

“Be tolerant. Learn about someone before you judge them on their race, colour or religion” This was the message highlighted to Students from all over Eastbourne as they joined together to attend an inspiring evening lecture from Dorit Oliver-Wolff on 9th May. Organised by Eastbourne Schools Partnership and hosted by Ratton School, students were invited to this fantastic opportunity to hear Dorit’s adventures, from her childhood memories of the Holocaust to her greatest accomplishments as a singer and pin-up.

Dorit’s presentation re-told the horrific story of a child growing up through and surviving the holocaust, the memories of living in hiding with her mother and starving to the brink of death. But the life that Dorit made for herself as a young adult was an **outstanding achievement** from the childhood she never had. Learning to survive at all costs, Dorit ended up travelling around the world, studying by day and dancing by night, until she enrolled into the University of Munchen. Here she studied and sang at every opportunity until she was spotted in a Jazz club and shortly after signed a record deal with Fontana recording company.



Students and staff were astounded by the dedication and courage shown by this witty character before them. Dorit spoke about her ordeals with honesty and sincerity, showing no anger or hatred for the people who had persecuted her younger life, but focusing on the positives of creating a future without fear and the importance of NEVER giving up on your dreams.

Students were able to ask questions about Dorit’s experiences and were motivated by her enthusiasm and obvious passion for treating all people with the same respect and love as you would expect to be treated yourself, regardless of where they are born, or the religion they choose to follow.



IRISH DANCING NEWS

Rinceoiri Ratton are members of the SPARK network - a network that connects community youth groups and organisations. They were nominated for an 'Arts and Culture Achievement' award at the annual award ceremony at the Winter Garden on Tuesday 10th May.

Although they didn't win, they performed a dance as the finale of the awards which brought the house down! They were also challenged by East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service to see how many Irish dancers they could fit in a fire engine!

Later on in the week (Thursday 12th) dancers from Mrs Potten's old Irish dance school came in to run a workshop with the girls.

Another busy week and LOTS of aching legs!!



(continued from front page)

The programme consisted of a campus tour and three Academic Days which introduced them to three subjects they can study at university level. Our students chose from either STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) or Social Sciences.

The students from both groups engaged fully and proactively with every opportunity presented to them and it was an honour to see them collect their graduation certificates in full robes and mortar board. They represented themselves and Rattton magnificently.

Students in the Social Sciences group (pictured above) took part in Politics, Sociology and Law academic days. They particularly enjoyed the Law Academic Day which was based in a mock Court of Law where they had the opportunity to dress up in gowns and re-enact real life cases.

The STEM group's (pictured right) activities involved a Biology and Physics themed day with the last day devoted to robotics and programming. Our students particularly enjoyed programming instructions for EV3 sensory robots to navigate a slalom course, knock down skittles and finally to seek and attack each other in a Sumo contest!



RATTON STUDENTS SKYPE SCHOOL IN KAZAKHSTAN

Registration on Tuesday in Mr Jones' tutor group became a global experience when they Skyped students from Nazarbayev Intellectual School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences in Semey City (<http://sm.nis.edu.kz>) Semey City is nearly 4000 miles away and 5 hours ahead of us.

The students from both schools got to ask each other questions about their school day and how many days a week they went to school. They also discussed their preferred social media platforms, plus their hobbies and interests outside of school. Both schools are hoping to connect again via Skype in the not too distant future.



'Likes' on a smart phone screen

A tiny phone screen links Rattton School teenagers with their Kazakh peers

The project work I have been doing at the University of Sussex, School of Education and Social Work deals with the theme how a young generation studies and learns. What helps them to learn better and become independent learners? To find out the answers to the questions I decided to create a link to my own school in Kazakhstan through the internet. The Skype link between 9C in NIS, Almaty and 9Z at Rattton School resulted in a small talk which built positive and happy moments in the day. Students tried to learn more about their everyday lives and laughed at the answers they heard from each other. They sent 'likes' in the shape of a heart through the tiny screen of a smart phone. The aim of the Skype connection was to complete a questionnaire played on the software programme 'Kahoot'. Students were given several questions to answer about their learning skills. From the results that we got, we can tell that both groups of respondents are independent learners and the most helpful teaching skills for them are reading and listening. They often reflect on their learning processes and talk to their teachers or to their peers about their experiences. They learn better from teachers and when they are in the classroom. Moreover, most teenagers understand which learning models are effective. In conclusion, we may say that this short Skype briefing example shows that pupils from each school have a very similar attitude to school life. Although there is a time difference in these zones of the world, there is not any learning model difference for teenagers of two countries.



Gaukhar Khalyk, Sussex University Postgraduate Teacher-Practitioner

Alicia's flying high!

On Tuesday 17th May, 52 year 9 girls were regaled with stories from pilot, Alicia Adams. Alicia is a Ratton ex-pupil who studied Triple Science and went on to study Chemistry and Physics at A level, then went on to achieve a First in Engineering from Kingston University. She is now a First Officer for Monarch Airways.

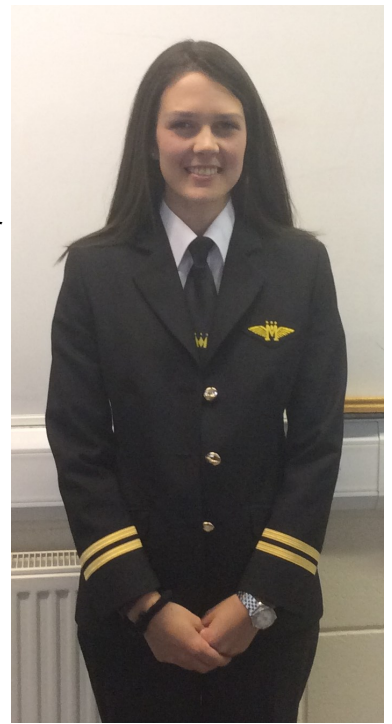


Alicia explained about many challenges in becoming a pilot, including the challenges that faced her as a female in Science. Interestingly, out of 100 students studying engineering at Kingston University with her, only 3 of them were female.

At Ratton, we like to encourage girls to be anything they want to be, including working in (currently) male dominated fields.

We spent a little time discussing the issue, and then moved on to more general aviation discussions. For example, what it is like to be a pilot to include all the positives (free holiday flights!). We watched some video clips of taking off and landings and discussed -at length - what happens in emergencies.

The girls all responded very positively and we are proud of their enthusiasm. We are also very proud of what Alicia has achieved and are really pleased that she took the time to come back and visit us.



Ratton's Ronnie's Flourishing!

Ronnie is absolutely thriving at Broncos and doing really well. On 4th May they had a training session with the U19s academy players and the First team players. It was a really good evening for the U16s and they learned a lot.

Ronnie also recently played at Ealing Trailfinders against Huddersfield Giants and they won 42-24. Brilliant news!



20th May 2016

Alex and Henri help Sussex become National Champions

On Saturday 7th May two Ratton pupils, **Alex Plummer** and **Henri Wilder**, played for The Sussex CSFA U16 team in the National Final of the U16 Inter County Cup played at the City Ground the home of Nottingham Forest FC.

In a close contest both Alex and Henri played very well, to help Sussex become National Champions by defeating North Yorkshire CSFA by two goals to one.

Congratulations to both Alex and Henri, we are all very proud of you.



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George is a star!

It's Gold week in more than one way for **George Ebdy** this week. George recently scooped the coveted Sportsmanship Shield at Eastbourne Boys' Brigade.

In addition to this impressive feat, George also gained his 10 years continuous service badge and award badges for Discovery, Skills, Recreation & Community.

Well done George!



Archie Culbert, Y8 student, successful in making it into the Sussex basketball squad



Having attended the first trial where over 75 boys tried out, Archie then made the short list to attend the second trial where the 30 boys were cut to 15. After a long weekend of waiting for the e-mail Archie received the news that he had been selected to represent Sussex at the regional tournament on 3rd July.

Brilliant news—congratulations Archie!

Andrew captains the Sussex Schools' U15's at Craven Cottage—the home of Fulham Football Club since 1896!

Andrew Briggs captained the Sussex Schools' U15's to the Finals played at Craven Cottage, Fulham's home ground on 17th May.

Unfortunately, the score ended 1-0 to Surrey but the boys were a credit to themselves, their clubs and their families. We are extremely proud of Andrew too.



BACK TO BASICS

As we approach the final stage of the year, sometimes core principles are forgotten.

As such, we will re-focus the whole school on our basic expectations that have always been in place to ensure that students are focused and prepared each morning for the day ahead.

Each day we will ensure (and ask for your support) that students are:

- on time and in registration by 8.45am,
- in the correct uniform,
- arrive with the basic equipment to work ie pen, pencil, ruler and diary (PPRD)

We will follow up with students who have made an error immediately.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring students are prepared for learning.



Road to Eastbourne Tennis Festival

On Wednesday 18th May 2016, Ratton Year 9 Sports Leaders and 7 primary schools in the Eastbourne area braved the strong winds and rain to participate in a Tennis Festival.

Children from Bourne Primary School, Haven Voluntary Aided C of E / Methodist Primary School, Ocklynge Junior School, Polegate Primary School, Stafford Junior School, St John's Meads C of E Primary School and Stone Cross School were outstanding in both participation and performance, not bothered by the winds or the rain, which thankfully stopped within half an hour of the competition commencing! Up to 4 boys and 4 girls from each school played single games in a round robin tournament producing some brilliant technical rallies.



The event was organised and run by Francis Mackie of 'Tennis in the Park' and the Ratton School Sports Leader Team.

The winners of the event were Stone Cross School with runners up Ocklynge Junior School. Huge thanks to all the students and children for making it such a wonderful afternoon and to the teachers and staff for making the necessary arrangements, so that the children could experience tennis in a competitive situation.



ParentPay

Thank you to everyone who is using ParentPay for Refresh, trips and resources.

It has really taken off over the last few months so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have mislaid your ParentPay activation letter as online payments are so much more secure. We would also like to remind you about the biometric system (finger scan) for our dining facilities - we can accept an email confirmation to swap your child from using a pin number to the biometric system or you can collect a letter from the Finance Office.

Thank you for your continued support.

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