

LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD

Last week was anti-bullying week and one of the events we took part in, on Wednesday 15th November, was 'Odd Socks Day'. This day was the idea of the Anti-Bullying Alliance and was based on the belief that we are all different and unique. These ideals also link into our virtues of **Compassion** and **Respect** and are an important part of the way we should treat each other in the school community.

The visit of Simon Singh, writer and mathematician, was very exciting. He is passionate about learning in mathematics and brought in an original Enigma machine that was used to encrypt military and commercial secrets during early/middle part of last century. During his visit he went into a number of maths lessons and met groups of students to discuss the Enigma machine. He also visited Ocklynge School later on in the day to share the experience with their children.

This scientific and mathematical theme was also part of a couple of fascinating school trips. The first trip was to the Dungeness nuclear power station in Kent. The site has 2 power stations on site, although one of the power stations is no longer producing electricity. The second trip was to the onshore site of the Newhaven/Rampion windfarm, which when it is completed will have 116 turbines 140m high between Worthing and Newhaven. I know both visits were enjoyed by students and staff and were great opportunities to learn about different ways to generate electricity.

Please enjoy this action packed newsletter.

Mr Knox-Macaulay, Headteacher

LONDON TO BRIGHTON!

Mrs Scott-Smith, Head of Science, drove in the London to Brighton veteran car run again this year in her grandfather's 1904 Peugeot, which has only 3 gears (a crash gearbox) and wooden spoked wheels!

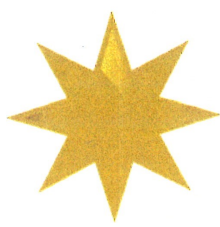
She has been doing the run since she was 5 years old and has now driven in the run three times. Four generations of her family have now taken part in the run in this car, including her two children Calista (5) and Jenson (18 months), and they had another successful run this year making the run down to Brighton safely.



There were a number of route changes this year including a serious accident on Reigate Hill so they were very lucky to make it all the way from Hyde Park in London down to Madeira Drive on Brighton seafront.

Mrs Scott-Smith says she is already looking forward to next year- but not the 4am wakeup call!





JOIN US
RAFFLE
GIFTS
MINCE PIES
CHRISTMAS CAKE
REFRESHMENTS
3.30PM TILL 5PM
FESTIVE TREATS

15th DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS
FAIR

“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.

There are a few strategies, actions and attitudes that can increase this sense of wellbeing. There are no magic wands for feeling good, but students and parents might like to try a wellbeing exercise and see if it works for them. I will share one or two new strategies every newsletter.”

Gemma Bryden AHT for PSHE and Virtues

Keep a journal

Starting a journal can be a great stress-relieving exercise that helps you to get to know yourself better, organise your thoughts and achieve your goals. Research suggests that writing may use parts of your brain not involved in talking, which is particularly useful for anyone who struggles to voice their feelings.

You don't need to write in it everyday but regularly jotting down some reflections on your mood, emotions and feelings can help you spot patterns. For example, I know that November often makes me a bit gloomy because it gets so much darker. Therefore I plan ahead and make sure I make plans with friends to do some fun things and enhance my wellbeing.

A Parent Survey has been sent out via email about Wellbeing. If you have not received it and would like to take part- please email Ms Bryden (gbryden@ratton.co.uk) to receive a link.

Spooky Story Competition

On Tuesday 14th November, students from all years were presented with their awards for their excellent creative writing skills they demonstrated in the Spooky Story writing competition. Awards were presented by Mr Knox-Macaulay in the LRC, and there were so many fantastic entries this year that Miss Stark had a hard time choosing winners!

Well done to all those who entered, and keep your eyes peeled throughout the year for more competitions.

Winners:

Miss Stark's Spectacular Award – Molly Simpson

Year 7

- 3rd – Mara Gonzalez and Laura Tyborowski, 7ARo
- 2nd – Freya Packer, 7ARo
- 1st - Mahima Shomi, 7GWa

Year 8

- 3rd- Abbey Mckeckan, LCh
- 2nd- Ella Harris, ADv
- 1st- Tiarne Mole, ADu

Year 9

- 3rd- Luca Beltrane, JSP
- 2nd- Natalie Wood, ADv
- 1st- Laila El Roubi, KCI

Year 10

- 3rd- Connie Wallis, CPn
- 2nd- Safia Mollik, EGr
- 1st- Christina Butt, JAP

Year 11

- 3rd- Eddie Heard, PPa
- 2nd- Charlie Barnard, PJo
- 1st- Ollie Morgan, HMa

Runners-up:

Adam Davies, CDe, Jamie Da Silva, RGo, Hannah Dent, WSt, Bibi Baldwin, RKe, Abbie Coxhead, JSp, Luke Ellis, SMA, Gini Harvey, RKe, Phoebe Jupp, JPi, Jess Nash, ADv, Callum Nicholls, RGo, Mackenzie Nelson, WBr, Beatriz Pereira, SCh, Kiara Reed, Jap, Caleb Scott, Ofr

All stories will be published in a booklet in the library available for all students and staff to read.

ODD SOCKS DAY FOR ANTI-BULLYING WEEK



Anti-Bullying Alliance



All Different

All Equal

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Staff and Students found the perfect reason for wardrobe malfunctions and didn't have to worry about pairing up socks — all in the name of a great cause.

Anti-Bullying week is a national campaign to raise awareness and has been running all this week (13th - 17th November) organised by Anti-Bullying Alliance. You can follow events on social media using #antibullyingweek and #abw17. The theme will promote difference and equality in schools with the tag-line 'All Different, All Equal'



Ratton Girls Can—and Do!

On the last Wednesday of last term the pupils involved in *Ratton Girls Can* spent their day at Raystede Animal Sanctuary. Having worked hard, organising and hosting a cake sale they baked 130 cakes in an hour, selling them to raise £54.00 as a donation for the charity.

Upon arrival they looked around the sanctuary, patting the horses and admiring the donkeys, then spent time learning about animal care and needs. After the introduction session they went off to meet and greet the dogs. They learned about dog behaviour and about individual dogs that enter Raystede and were then responsible for Lemmy and Louis who they took for fun filled walks in the rain across the fields of Sussex.

After their stroll, it was off to care for the cats - every day the cats need entertaining and nurturing as they can become stressed in their new temporary homes. They went into the cattery and sat and played with the cats - Pickachu was a favourite!

Following lunch they went to enhance the chicken enclosure. Raystede takes chickens that are no longer able to live on the local organic farm. In the large coop the girls hunted eggs, created food toys to hang from trees and checked on the wellbeing of the hens, all of whom were happily clucking during the visit.

A relaxed walk around the lake allowed for a spot of geese spotting and they admired the exotic birds before returning to school.

The students were excellent ambassadors for the school and had a fantastic day.



EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Ratton School departed for the Rampion Offshore Windfarm last week. 11 students visited the site of the newly built windfarm located 13km from the coast in Newhaven. The students were dressed head to toe in the same protective gear that the engineers wear every day and were welcomed aboard one of their sea vessels, the C Wind Sword.

After their induction on the boat the students lent a hand in one of the windfarm's evacuation drills strapping up a construction worker in a stretcher and ensuring he could be safely lifted from one of the 116 wind turbines on the farm. The captains on the sea vessels got their orders from the Ratton students on that day as one student told the boat dubbed "Wildcat" to "proceed to wind turbine India 07".

The day ended with one of the site's engineers explaining how the wind turbines can generate enough energy to power half the homes in East Sussex.

The students loved the trip and have come away with some a real experience of how we are moving towards a greener future.



FOCUS ON... SOCIAL SKILLS

As part of a bespoke series of after-school interventions being offered during term 2 to targeted Key Stage 3 students, the Learning Support department is running an eight-session programme focusing on Social Skills. These workshops will create an opportunity to share experiences and develop an understanding of what social skills are, through a range of activities including role-play, worksheets and discussion. It is hoped that the course will enable students to develop their social skills in a range of settings.

Social skills offer a significant advantage in life offering the benefits of experiencing positive relationships, better academic achievements, improved self-image and greater resilience. The programme aims to give students the space to reflect on their own social skills and build up their confidence in adopting new approaches to social skills, encouraging them to use these new approaches in order they may feel more confident about themselves.

This support programme is operated in a safe and supportive group environment aiming to help members feel comfortable about sharing their thoughts and experiences together. The effectiveness of the programme is monitored through completion of questionnaires by participants.

These sessions are being facilitated by Ms Griffiths, Teaching Assistant. For more information about other types of interventions offered by the Learning Support department, please contact Ms L Gomm (SENCO) lgomm@ratton.co.uk or Mrs M Veale (Assistant SENCO and Specialist Assessor) mveale@ratton.co.uk

SUSSEX DOWNS COLLEGE OPEN EVENTS 2017

EASTBOURNE CAMPUS
THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER,
4:30PM - 7:30PM

LEWES CAMPUS
TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER,
4:30PM - 7:30PM

*These events are
also open to adults
interested in Access
to HE, Degree Level
& Leisure Courses!*



W W W . S U S S E X D O W N S . A C . U K



A focus on attendance and punctuality 13th November – 15th December 2017

It is vitally important for all students at Ratton School to have the best chance to achieve at school. To do this, students need to attend regularly and punctually. Ratton School is committed to ensuring students understand the impact that absences can have on potential attainment and future life chances.

Many parents and students consider 90% attendance to be acceptable. However, by just attending for 90% of the academic year, a pupil is actually missing four weeks of academic and social interaction!

'GET ONBOARD' has been developed to promote the importance of attendance.

We will be undertaking this awareness month of attendance and punctuality importance from Monday 13th November to Friday 15th December 2017. The aim is for all students to achieve 100% attendance.

We will be promoting good attendance and punctuality through various competitions and activities.

Supporting your child's education at Ratton School is always valued. The 'GET ONBOARD' Month will provide an opportunity for all students to understand the importance that regular and punctual attendance has for their future.

Withdrawal from learning in term time

Parents are expected to take their family holidays during school holiday times. It is widely acknowledged that any withdrawal from school, be it for a day or a week, is likely to interrupt a child's learning. Children who are absent in term time miss out on the teaching that goes on in their absence. Children returning from a term time absence are also unprepared for the lessons that build on the teaching they have missed.

If a withdrawal from learning is required due to 'exceptional circumstances', it is the responsibility of parents/carers to fill in an withdrawal from learning request form, found on our school website, preferably 14 days before the period of absence.

'Exceptional circumstances' refer to events such as close family funerals, events of religious significance and examinations (music, dancing etc). Each application will be carefully considered by the Headteacher.

Governmental research shows a strong correlation between attendance and achievement. 'Putting Achievement First' thus requires that all students have excellent attendance, because "missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances" (Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools: 2017).



"We aim for all students to have 100% attendance and no less than 97%; for even this means that your child would be missing two full weeks of schooling each year!"

At Ratton School we believe that good attendance and punctuality are essential for a child to reach their educational potential and enjoy a feeling of belonging to their class and school community. In promoting the belief that attendance and punctuality are important values we are preparing our students for a successful future.

Contact the school

If your child cannot attend school (for whatever reason) please telephone the school on 01323 504011 **before 8.30am every day of absence** or leave a message on the answerphone or email us on our dedicated absence email address which is attendance@ratton.co.uk

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