



Tuesday 23rd January

Ratton LGC 5pm

Friday 26th January

Trustees Meeting 8am

Tuesday 30th January

Y9 Careers Day

Thursday 1st February

Y10 Parents/Carers Evening
4.15pm-7.15pm

Wednesday 7th February

Y9/10 Careers Fair

“The expert in anything was once a beginner”

The move into a new year is always a good time to think about the future. We want to encourage all our students from Year 7 to Year 11 to think about their future beyond Ratton in education and work. To encourage them, we have a strong careers programme that starts in Year 7 and builds up though to Year 11. There are at least 3 examples in this newsletter about how we help prepare our students for their future careers.

It was wonderful to walk round the Year 11 interview day talking to all the business volunteers who were interviewing our students. It was the same day as a visit from our local MP, Stephen Lloyd, so it was pleasure to share how our community links were benefitting our students. It has also been interesting to talk to Year 11 students and find out how they have used the interview skills they developed during that day for college interviews.

Trying to develop new and exciting ideas is very important in the world of work. If innovation is your thing then please read about the team that have designed a sustainable Handy Hydro turbine to generate electricity. In the short film clip of their project, they demonstrate a whole range of work-based skills from project planning to teamwork.

Finally, a group of Year 10 students went to a hotel to gain first-hand experience of a formal catering environment. They had the opportunity to watch a professional Head Chef demonstrate the skills to produce a 3 course meal and reflect on whether they were interested in pursuing careers in catering.

Please enjoy this ‘work related’ newsletter.

*Mr Knox-Macaulay
Headteacher*

206 interviews – all in one day!

On Monday 15th January we hosted 30 volunteers from local businesses who gave up their time to come into school to give each of our Year 11 students a mock interview.



The aim of the event was to raise student aspirations and their motivation. In

addition, students will also have developed a greater understanding of the importance of employability skills in the workplace (literacy, numeracy, IT, communication, problem solving). The interview also provided an invaluable opportunity for students to develop their interview skills and we are very grateful to all those people who participated in the day.



Parent Ambassadors attended a training session at Ratton School this week with a view to sharing their knowledge and experience about University life and student finance with other parents. The Sussex Learning Network is running this exciting new initiative, the National Collaborative Outreach Programme.



The Parent Ambassadors, who all have children currently studying at University, are looking forward to starting their roles and sharing their experiences. They will be available with

lots of information and guidance - look out for them the next time you attend a school parent/information evening.

ULTIMATE STEM CHALLENGE 2017-18

The **Ultimate STEM Challenge** (science, technology, engineering and maths) has been designed to help young people develop their creativity, problem-solving skills and employability by tackling real-world challenges by exploring the practical uses of science. Teams of two to four students aged 11 to 14, from across the UK, can enter the competition and win some fantastic prizes, including an invitation to a celebratory event at the Science Museum, an Ultimate STEM experience day, £500 for their school and Science Museum goodies!

This year's theme – My Sustainable Future – will see young people develop solutions to one of three real-world challenges which will reduce natural resource use or bring down greenhouse gas emissions.

We are delighted to say that **Sam Brown, Mackenzie Nelson, Izzy Pike and Douglas Potter** have collaborated to produce a 'Handy Hydro' turbine from scratch for generating electricity from moving water and is real proof of their passion for STEM.



Music Department Christmas Concert

Once again, the music department marked the festive season with their annual Christmas concert. The evening featured items from all three choirs and the school's orchestra, The Ratton Players. Congratulations to Brooke Nicholls, Indya-Jayne Wardle, Luke Corteling-Rice, Megan Archer and Tallulah Roberts for their fantastic solo performances during the evening.

All proceeds from the ticket sales went to the Lyric and Globe charities; The Kit Wilson Trust and Children With Cancer Fund.

Minor Details Christmas Carols

Ratton's Accapella group, The Minor Details, continued the tradition of performing at various care homes during the festive period and this year also performed at Victoria Baptist Church for a Christmas coffee afternoon. Many thanks to the residents who attended the afternoon as they kindly donated £75 through a collection to Lyric's charity, The Kit Wilson Trust.



Y7/8/9 Design & Technology

To enable the Design and Technology Department to continue to provide a wide variety of opportunities for students to make and take home products they design, we continue to ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of materials.

We do hope that you will be able to contribute £2.50 (or any other amount to help with ongoing costs) which can be paid by cash, cheque or through ParentPay. All donations should be handed in to the Finance Office.

Thank you!



Mixed Media Textile Artist, Katie Essams, is inspired by everyday beauty to combine freehand machine embroidery, appliqué, paint, crochet and more to create her original textile pieces

Since graduating in 2011 from the University of Hertfordshire with a BA Hons in Contemporary Applied Art Katie Essam, mixed media textile artist - has been struck with a passion for textiles. So having taught herself freehand machine embroidery, appliqué and many other textile techniques, she combines them to make original framed, mixed media textile art pieces, inspired by the beauty in everyday objects and vintage.

Katie runs tuition sessions, teaching freehand machine embroidery and appliqué, and needle felting workshops and our GCSE Art Textiles students were delighted with her recent visit to Ratton to further assist them with their portfolio artwork.



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.

Making use of mind.org— in 4 adults will experience a mental health issue at some point in their life. Mind is a national charity set up to support anyone in need of support with their mental health. The staff and volunteers at Mind run 3 different phone lines to help people access the support they need. Starting the conversation can be difficult but the people at Mind are trained to help you access the support.

Mind Infoline—This team provides information on a range of topics including types of mental health problems, where to get help, medication and alternative treatments, advocacy. They will look for details of help and support in your own area and can be contacted between 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday (except for bank holidays) on 0300 123 3393 or info@mind.org.uk or Text: 86463

Mind Legal Line—Mind provide legal information and general advice on mental health related law covering mental health, mental capacity, community care, human rights and discrimination/equality related to mental health issues and can be contacted between 9am and 6pm Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays) on 0300 466 6463 or legal@mind.org.uk

Blue Light Infoline - is **just for emergency service staff**, volunteers and their families and provides information on a range of topics including staying mentally healthy for work, how and where to get help, medication and alternative treatments, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), existing emergency service support, mental health and the law. They can be contacted between Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm (except for bank holidays) on 0300 303 5999 (local rates) or bluelightinfo@mind.org.uk Text: 84999

Gemma Bryden AHT for Character Education

Year 10 Food & Cookery Group visit The Langham Hotel



The Year 10 Vcert Food and Cookery group recently enjoyed a visit to The Langham Hotel.

The pupils received a warm welcome by the owner and had a 3-course meal demonstrated to them by the Head Chef. Some of the students assisted the chef in the preparation of the meals.

This was followed by a delicious buffet lunch before heading back to school.



Charity

Children's Sale

Saturday 17th February

10am - 12pm (doors open 9.00am to sellers)

50p entry, Seller Table £10 and Coffee,

Tea and Cake sales go to:



GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL CHARITY



Brighter Future Fund
The Jade Allistone Brighter Future Fund

All other profits are your own

To book a table/any queries email: finance@ratton.co.uk

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Ratton Neighbourhood Panel

Invite all residents to attend a

PUBLIC MEETING

Re: proposed cycleway from Hailsham to the Sea Front and the associated traffic calming.

Learn how it will affect areas around A2270

22nd JANUARY 2018

6pm at

RATTON SCHOOL DINING HALL

ESCC, Team Manager for Strategic Economic Infrastructure, Mr Jon Wheeler will be attending and happy to explain what is proposed and listen to comments



Grass verge replaced with tarmac and railings
Willingdon Road



Park Avenue traffic calming humps

Willingdon Road cycleway

Drawings and details of proposals are available on ESCC website

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE CROWNED BRITAIN'S

BEST LEGO BUILDER?

LEGO MASTERS



Do you love to build awesome creations? Do you want to put your building skills to the ultimate test? We're looking for imaginative building pairs to take part in the second series of the bold brick-building competition on Channel 4 to find the UK's most talented amateur builders.

Please email build@tuesdayschild.tv for more information and an application form. If you are under 18 please ask a parent or guardian to email on your behalf. Unfortunately, we won't be able to answer all the requests individually. Applicants must be 9+ by 31/03/2018.

TUESDAY'S CHILD

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