

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

Thursday 12th November
Year 8 Tutor Evening

Thursday 10th December
Year 11 Parents/Carers Evening

Wednesday 16th December
Twilight inset - students finish
at 12.20pm

Thursday 17th December/
Friday 18th December
Inset days - school closed
to students

21st December - 1st January
Christmas holidays

INSETS 2020-21

Monday 11th January
Twilight inset - students finish
at 1.20pm

Monday 8th March
Twilight inset - students finish
at 1.20pm

Friday 21st May
Year 11 Valediction - early closure
for Years 7-10 at 1.20pm

Friday 2nd July
Inset day - school closed
to students

Friday 23rd July
Early closure at 12.20pm

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Ratton School,

I hope this first edition of the newsletter this term finds you and your families safe and well. In this edition you'll find some excellent art work from Ms McCarthy Coltman's class, and update on how our Year 7 and Year 8 students are progressing on our Mandarin Excellence Programme and a report on our Year 11 Careers Day among news on other events and activities. You'll also find reminders regarding the measures we are taking to minimise coronavirus risk in school and what to do if your child develops symptoms. Please take the time to read this guidance again as we move further into winter and cold and flu season. If in doubt regarding any symptoms, please contact the attendance team for advice. Additionally, if your child is displaying definite coronavirus symptoms, book a test and keep us informed of any outcome.

As I wrote in my letter home last week, we have enjoyed a positive start to term. Yesterday afternoon saw Year 11 Period 6 commence, with teachers reporting excellent engagement and attendance. We hope that this initiative will give our senior students a real boost and address gaps around knowledge and understanding that may have arisen from the lockdown period. Year 11 students will start their mock GCSE exams next week, and we have assessment weeks for all year groups this term where students will sit a test in all of their subjects; teachers will be giving guidance to students on what they need to revise for these tests in class and via homework. We will be holding a remote Year 11 parents' and carers' consultation evening on Thursday 10th December; more details will follow shortly.

I have been impressed with how students have again adapted to new demands this term in routines. As is customary at this time of year, we have shut the field at break and lunchtimes to preserve this facility for PE lessons as the weather gets wetter and the ground gets muddier. Year 11 have moved onto their own court, and Year 8 have moved onto their own area on the North Playground, which is fenced off with barriers. Both year groups have adapted well to this change. We have also asked all students to 'mask and mute' when travelling in corridors. This means that students are expected to move silently on the limited occasions when they do travel. This has the benefit of avoiding potential spread of coronavirus through the air due to talking and ensures that we have a calm and ordered school.

We will continue to monitor advice and guidance from the Department of Education during this second lockdown period and inform you of any changes we will need to make as a result. At present we are satisfied that the measures we put into place at the start of this academic year are effective in minimising risk. We know that this second period of lockdown this year will affect everyone in different ways but will worry some of our students further. We are here to support in any way we can and our aim is to ensure as much care, normality and routine as possible for our students in these uncertain times. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need to.

Mr Peevers, Head of School

Here are some examples of the amazing work that Year 10s were engrossed in during Ms MCarthy Coltman's class



Many congratulations to our students who have earned the highest number of achievement points from 19th October - 6th November

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Grace Andrews	Abigail Line	Jessica Da Silva	Annalie Brown	Ella Harris
Erin Farrell	Caitlin Etherton-Jeffs	Lilia Edwards	Scarlet Holroyd	Anna Glynne-Percy
Juliette Hasib	Martyna Victoria	Amy Denman	Victoria Cleary	Hannah Dent
Matilda Jansch	Delilah Worrell	Ariana Shapol	Kiki Otto	Megan Andrews
Darcie Taggart	Fatimah Uddin	Isla Budd	Sofia Joaquim	Mercedes Valero
Lilly-May Maplanka	Matylda Furmanska	Logan Richards	Jake Gell	Sebastian Chumbley
Lucy Percy	Luke Bennett	Charlie Robinson	Harvey Crowther	Cameron Jones
Pal Patel	Joao Honorato Da Silva	Tom Elliott	William Mulvenney	James Hastie
Polly Budd	Ieuan Opie	Lee Do Rosario	Luke Tison	Alfie Moreton
Poppy Robinson	Davison Kingshott	Leo Higgins	Daniel Zaman	Brooke Nicholls
Yamen Al Chami	Jay Green	Ned Baldwin	Joseph Satchwell	Meer Baram
Tameem Chbib	Matthew Clark	Yad Baram		
Logan Robertson				
Arthur Armitage-Heath				



Virtual MFL conversation club with Eastbourne College



On our first week back of term 2, year 11 linguists have participated in our first virtual MFL conversation club with Eastbourne College. Each student was paired up with an A-Level native speaker of the language they study at Ratton to practise the speaking component of their GCSE language exam. Students arrived at 2.45 and logged in on the school laptops and they prepared the role-play and photo card that was sent to them in advance, Mr Tyskerud and Miss Clément were there to support with the writing. At 3.20, each student joined the Team call and met their language partner. There was a real buzz around the room, students loved the opportunity to practise and learn some more vocabulary.

French film Festival – De toutes nos forces



During the first two weeks of term 2, year 10 and 11 French students are getting the exciting opportunity to attend a screening of the film "The finishers (De toutes nos forces)" at school as part of the French Film Festival UK's Learning Programme. In these challenging times instead of welcoming school groups to participating cinemas, the festival came to Ratton. The screening took place period 5 and carried on after school, popcorn and sweets made the whole experience more authentic. The film will then be used in lesson for some follow up work. It is a great opportunity for our students to practice their listening skills and it gives them an insight into French culture and lifestyle. This year, the film chosen was "De toutes nos forces" or "The finishers" in English. It is the story of Julien, 17 who has cerebral palsy. His father, Paul, is a celebrated athlete. They do not always see eye to eye. One day, Julien convinces his father to sign them up for an upcoming Ironman race – which will involve 2.4 miles of swimming, then 112 miles of cycling, followed by 26 miles of running. Will this impossible challenge help reconnect father and son? Will they manage to complete the race? This was inspired by a true story. There was a real enthusiasm from the students, who engaged with the film all the way through, there was also lots of teary eyes by the end and a real excitement at the end, starting many debates.

Year 7 & 8 Mandarin Classes



**Mandarin
Excellence
Programme**

中文

Last term saw the restarting of the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) at Ratton School. In addition to last year's group who have now begun their second year of learning Mandarin (currently in Year 8), a new group of 26 Year 7 pupils have also begun their Chinese studies. The pupils have made an outstanding start to the course and have been working extremely hard at mastering the new characters and pronunciation.

In Year 7 so far pupils have learnt to count 1-100, greet each other (忙不忙), to ask and answer questions about their names and age (我十二岁) and families (我有姐姐) as well as gaining a clear understanding of Chinese calligraphy. Year 8 on the other hand are already able to discuss school subjects they like and dislike (我喜欢中文, 我不喜欢英文) and what times in the day they study each class (我九点学数学).

Despite attending additional early classes, they have approached the course with buckets of bravery and enthusiasm and arrived early at school come rain or shine. Massive congratulations to them and good luck to all year 7 and 8 pupils who have taken on this challenge!

WORD OF THE WEEK



la nourriture (f)



la comida (f)



das Essen



食品 (fàn)



food (noun)



**Tell your MFL
teacher your
sentences!**

Irish dance success!

On Saturday 24th October some of Ratton's Irish dancers took part in a national competition, known as a 'feis' live on Zoom!

The girls did amazingly well and wiped the floor with the competition to gain first places and top podium positions.

A huge well done to Jess Shelton, Léa Ducat, Hannah Brook, Saffron Prentice, Taea Trott and Sophie Brook (as well as several Ratton alumni who continue to dance with us!)



YEAR 11 CAREERS DAY

On Friday 16th October, our Year 11 students attended their Careers Day. This year, there were live workshops as well as 'virtual' workshops delivered online. The day began with a video from Cameron Parker, a motivational speaker, who got things off to a great start with his positive, motivating talk!

Students attended practical workshops on 'Recognising Your Strengths', 'Interview Skills' and 'preparing a CV for job applications'. They also had the opportunity to search for college courses on Careers East Sussex and work on their college application profile, including their personal statement. There was also a College Fair where students had the opportunity to speak to college staff and collect prospectuses.

Our Year 11s really enjoyed their Careers Day and we had some excellent feedback from the day. Thank you to all our live and 'virtual' visitors and staff who helped make this a hugely successful day for our Year 11s. We hope that our students now have lots of information to help them on their journey through Year 11 and beyond!

Getting started with Sora



With Sora, you can get free ebooks and audiobooks from your school.

1

Install the Sora app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or go to soraapp.com.

2

In Sora, find your school (or enter your school's setup code), then sign in.

3

Browse the **Explore** tab and borrow a book. Your book will open so you can start reading right away.

4

Close the book and go to your **Shelf** to see all your books (including assignments). From there, you can:

- Tap **Open Book** or **Open Audiobook** to read or listen to the book.
- Tap **Options** to renew or return the book, get to your notes and highlights, and more.

For more help with Sora, visit help.soraapp.com.



Sora

The student reading app



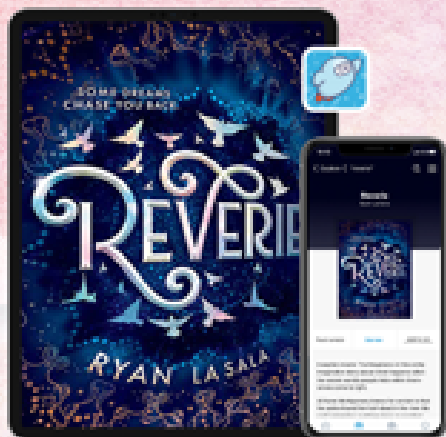
BIG LIBRARY READ

YEAR

10 & 11

Join the global book club – [Big Library Read!](#) join readers all over the world in reading (or listening) to [Reverie](#) by Ryan La Sala.

From 2-16 November both the audiobook and ebook will be available to borrow without waitlists or holds and featured at the top of the Explore tab in Sora.



Sometimes the things we believe in are the most dangerous things about us.

November 2-16, 2020



Read on Sora
The student reading app

A few weeks ago, Kane Montgomery was in an accident that robbed him of his memory. The only thing he knows for certain is that the police found him half-dead in the river. The world as he knows it feels different—reality seems different. And when strange things start happening around him, Kane isn't sure where to turn.



And then three of his classmates show up, claiming to be his friends and the only people who can tell him what's truly going on. Kane doesn't know what to believe or who he can trust. But as he and the others are dragged into increasingly fantastical dream worlds drawn from imagination, it becomes clear that there is dark magic at work. Nothing in Kane's life is an accident, and only he can keep the world itself from unravelling.

SOME DREAMS CHASE YOU BACK.

REVERIE

RYAN LA SALA

November 2-16, 2020

Reverie
Ryan La Sala

Read sample Borrow Add to list

Inception meets The Magicians in this wildly imaginative story about what happens when the secret worlds people hide within themselves come to light.

All Kane Montgomery knows for certain is that the police found him half-dead in the river. He can't remember anything about his accident.

Sometimes the things we believe in are the most dangerous things about us.

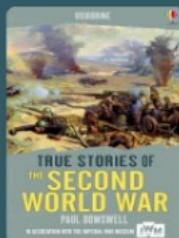


Read on Sora

Remembering with Red Poppies

Remembrance Day Books

22 books →





On Wednesday 14th October Year 7 pupils at Ratton School celebrated International Day of Languages. The day started at 08.40am when they were served French croissants by their generous tutors. Whilst enjoying this French delicacy, they attended a virtual quiz led by Miss Clement, organiser of the day, about the many advantages of learning foreign languages and celebrating foreign cultures.

Later in the day, all Year 7 pupils enjoyed a varied range of language and cultural activities from around the world. This year's celebrations saw pupils learning a plethora of languages ranging from Gaelic to Greek, Mandarin to Maltese and from Afrikaans to Swedish.

Because language and culture always go hand in hand, pupils also took part in cultural activities including Origami, Yoga, World Music, Sign Language, Pétanque, Ballet and investigations into the roots of languages.

There was a real buzz and excitement throughout Year 7 School the whole day and we thank all pupils for participating and engaging so passionately in this celebration of internationalism. A massive thank you to all the teachers too without whom we wouldn't have been able to put on such a broad and varied timetable of activities.

Further praise to the following pupils for their outstanding creativity in taking on the cultural challenge of The International Day of Languages by creating a dish from a culture of their choice:

Nathaniel Cam - Indian dish: home-made Bombay Aloo and Naan bread.

Katie Brown - Peruvian dish: chicken, rice, sweetcorn and the drink is chicha morad.

Matilda Jansch and Lilly Williams: sponge cake with Vanilla buttercream, smarties, fondant flowers, wafer flowers and more.

Billy Graves: an Italian themed pizza cake due to the fact our holiday in Sicily was cancelled.



Ms Wiacek created almost 300 pieces of people's favourite food and drink and raised money for charity at the same time!

Ms Graves – who designed a tote bag featuring Old Town's Albert Parade last year – has raised £1,400



for Eastbourne Foodbank by selling her pieces which include images of Yorkshire Tea, Marmite, Nutella and traditional foil covered tea cakes. She said, "I decided back in March... to develop my own project based on my and my family's 'lockdown loves'. I embroidered more than 80 foods and drinks I'd consumed to begin with and thought I'd try to sell them on my Instagram @clairegraves321 and give £5 from each sale to the Eastbourne Foodbank as it was really struggling in lockdown as were a lot of the families' children I teach. *(continued)*

It completely went crazy and people from all over the world including the USA and Australia were ordering my food pictures. Marmite was very popular as well as Yorkshire tea. I was lucky to sell more than 280 and made £1,400 for the foodbank which I was delighted with. I am still sewing every day taking commissions and will soon be designing a tea towel which will again raise money for local charities.



The biggest killer of secondary school aged children is road traffic...

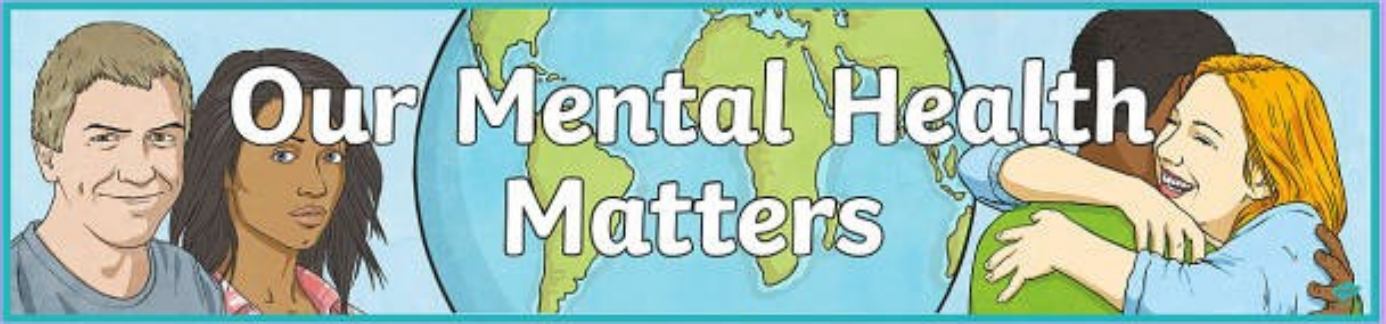
We have received worrying reports about students crossing roads and not looking whilst on their phones or talking to friends as well as dodging in and out of traffic, so please remember that young people between the age of 12 and 16 are considered to be one of the most vulnerable road user groups. It is generally considered that the transition between primary and secondary school is a watershed in child casualties. Children making the transition to secondary school are provided with a greater level of independence by being given the freedom to walk or cycle to school unsupervised. But with this greater independence comes a greater level of risk.

It is important to ensure that secondary school aged children are made aware of the risks associated with road traffic, and to provide them with the coping strategies, skills, and understanding to ensure they remain safe when on or near the road - especially when in an unsupervised capacity. Danger from traffic is also a big factor in whether children and young people are able to go to the park or to see friends, and therefore their ability to be healthy and socially active.

Road safety tips for road users aged 12 to 16:

- Ensure your child/ren know the safest route for their journey, making sure they are fully aware of potential hazards they might encounter on the way
- Plan the journey; a properly planned journey is a less risky journey. The THINK campaign have put together a helpful set of resources at <https://www.think.gov.uk/>
- Ensure your child/ren know what to do if things don't go to plan; for example, if they miss their bus. Have a back-up plan in place just in case
- Make sure they know the Green Cross Code. The Green Cross Code may be aimed at younger children but the advice it provides is pertinent for pedestrians of any age group
- Teach your child/ren to cross the road at a pedestrian crossing or where they can clearly see approaching traffic, and traffic can see them
- Be Bright Be Seen. Ensure they wear something bright or fluorescent during the day, and something reflective at night
- Ensure your child/ren give the road their full attention, and are fully aware of their surroundings at all times.
- Distractions are a major cause of casualties among young people; mobile phones, MP3 players etc must never be used when crossing the road
- Peer pressure amongst young people is a serious problem; teach your child/ren about the dangers of messing around with their friends when on or near the road





This weeks Wellbeing message is courtesy of Action for Happiness- I am a regular visitor to their website to find practical ways to maintain my own wellbeing.

Each month they publish a calendar of things to try. I don't manage the activities every day but I try to do two or three a week and I think they do have a positive outcome.

Here is an online link to the calendar:

<https://www.actionforhappiness.org/new-ways-november>

Covid is restricting our lives, but we can find new ways to keep making progress. Trying out new things can boost our well-being. When we open to new ideas, it helps us stay curious and engaged. It can also bring a sense of accomplishment and help to boost our self-confidence and resilience. There are so many ways to learn new things and this month we're encouraging everyone to find new and creative ways to overcome our frustrating situations.

Ms Bryden

ACTION CALENDAR: NEW WAYS NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Make a list of new things you want to do this month	2 Respond to a difficult situation in a different way	3 Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you	4 Sign up to join a new course, activity or online community	5 Change your normal routine today and notice how you feel	6 Give yourself a boost. Try a new way of being physically active	7 Be creative. Cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire
8 Find out something new about someone you care about	9 Plan a new activity or idea you want to try out this week	10 When you feel you can't do something, add the word "yet"	11 Be curious. Learn about a new topic or an inspiring idea	12 Overcome a frustration by trying out a new approach	13 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way	14 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about
15 Go outside and do something playful - walk, run, explore, relax	16 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective	17 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself	18 Connect with someone from a different generation	19 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site	20 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before	21 Learn a new skill from a friend or share one of yours with them
22 Find a new way to tell someone you appreciate them	23 Set aside a regular time to pursue an activity you love	24 Share with a friend something helpful you learned recently	25 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way	26 Tune in to a different radio station or TV channel	27 Enjoy new music today. Play, sing, dance or listen	28 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it
29 Discover your artistic side. Design your own greeting cards	30 Look for reasons to be hopeful, even in difficult times					

"You never know what you can do until you try" ~ C. S. Lewis

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

www.actionforhappiness.org

We would like to take this opportunity to remind yourselves and the students of the measures we have put in place here at Ratton to ensure the school is a safe and welcoming environment for the children to access their education.

- We have an enhanced cleaning programme where areas of high touch are cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- We have increased hand washing facilities for the children.
- We have installed hand sanitiser points around the school.
- There are social distancing floor signs and posters to remind the students.
- Students are in "year group bubbles" and do not mix with other year groups.
- Classrooms have been adapted to adhere to government guidelines.
- Year groups have their own designated entrances.
- All rooms have tissues, sanitiser and antibacterial wipes available.

Clear routines are in place for our staff should anyone fall in during the day.

We appreciate that the advice from government is ever changing and is sometimes difficult to interpret, however the current advice for our school is as follows.

Please do not send your child into school if they display coronavirus symptoms. The symptoms outlined by the NHS are as follows:

A high temperature - this means you may feel hot to the touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

- **A New continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough it may be worse than usual)

A loss or change to you sense of smell or taste - this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child does display these symptoms keep them away from school and contact our Attendance Officer, Mrs Saunderson, on 01323 504011 Ex 119 giving the reason for absence. Your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days and you will need to arrange a test for them. Any other members of your household will need to isolate for 14 days, this starts from the day the first person in your household developed symptoms.

If the test result is negative your child may return to school as soon as they are well enough. Please contact us to let us know the result of the test either positive or negative. If it is negative, we will require the confirmation as sent to you for your child to return to school. If any student becomes ill during the school day, we will arrange for that student to go home and self-isolate and ask parents to book them a test. You can book a test online or by calling 119.

Additionally, if someone in your child's household develops symptoms and needs to be tested, you must keep your child away from school and all self-isolate until the test result is known. Please contact the attendance team if this is the case. If the test result is negative the child can return to school.

If it is a positive result then all in the household should isolate for 14 days, this starts from the day the first person in your house developed symptoms, or if they showed no symptoms from the day they took their positive test. Only arrange for a test for other household members if they develop symptoms, if they test positive, they should then follow the guidelines for people with Covid-19 and self-isolate for 10 days from their symptoms starting regardless of where they were in their 14-day period.

Please note that some of the info in this newsletter may have been included from other organisations. In including the info this does not mean that Ratton School is endorsing them in any way.

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